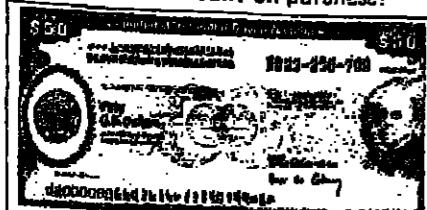


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ARAB TIMES

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1989/ZUL HAJ 27, 1409 AH

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20 PAGES 150 FILS

NEWSWATCH

Jawara arrives

KUWAIT, July 29. (KUNA): President Dawda Kairaba Jawara of Gambia and accompanying delegation arrived here this morning at the start of a three-day state visit to Kuwait.

The Gambian President was received at the airport by HH the Amir, the acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, cabinet members, governors, dean of the diplomatic corps and senior state officials.

An official delegation including the Ministers of External Affairs Omar Sey, Planning and Economic Affairs Meba Jatta and senior Gambian officials are accompanying President Jawara.

Exclusive

MAZRIYEH Dabbagh's arrest and torture by the dreaded SAVAK is now a legend among the women of Iran.

"They wanted to break me," she said, showing burn marks on her body. They even employed emotional blackmail, torturing her 12-year-old daughter in front of her.

Mazriyeh and her daughter survived their ordeal. It has all merged into memories that sustain the revolution.

Mazriyeh and other Iranian women recently spoke to *Arab Times* about their experiences and about their hopes for the future of Iran.

— See Page 8 —

Crime on the rise

NEW YORK, July 29. (Reuter): An overwhelming majority of Americans believe that crime is on the rise and favour deploying state militias instead of just local police in drug-infested areas, a new poll shows.

The militias, known collectively as the National Guard, are usually called out in natural disasters or to control riots.

The survey of 1,000 people found that 82 per cent believed crime is up. A third said they were "desperate" about crime and 59 per cent were eager for "emergency action."

Eighty-one per cent said they wanted the National Guard to patrol drug areas and 74 per cent were in favour of the death penalty for some killers.

Both whites and blacks — 78 per cent and 93 per cent, respectively — considered racism a problem in the US criminal justice system.

Grenade attack

MANILA, July 29. (AP): A 40-year-old mother and her four children, including a seven-month-old boy, were killed in a grenade attack in the central Philippines, the constabulary reported today.

The deaths occurred late yesterday on the outskirts of Mabata, a town about 270 kms (130 miles) southeast of Manila, a report said.

Anita Franco and her four boys, aged seven months to 12 years, died in their sleep. The father was not in the house at the time.

Military aid

NICOSIA, July 29. (Reuter): Soviet military aid to Iran is not directed against other countries in the region, Moscow's ambassador to Tehran was quoted today as saying.

In comments apparently directed at Baghdad and Washington, Vladimir Gudev told the Tehran Times charges that better Soviet-Iranian relations could destabilise the region were "absolutely false."

The Kremlin agreed to boost Iran's defences during a visit to Moscow last month by Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, elected President yesterday.

Romanians defect

DARTMOUTH, Nova Scotia, July 29. (Reuter): Three Romanians who were participating in the World Junior Canoe Championships have asked to remain in Canada, the Canadian Press News Agency reported today.

"Two men and a woman, whose names were not released, contacted city police in nearby Halifax shortly after 0500 GMT, immigration officials told the news agency.

They were later interviewed by immigration officials, it said.

Boats sink

DHAKA, July 29. (AP): Three boats sank during a rainstorm in southern Bangladesh and at least 57 people were missing, including 24 wedding guests, police and news reports said today.

A boat carrying 30 wedding guests capsized yesterday in Meghna river while on way to the bride's village near Chandpur town, 65 kilometres (40 miles) southeast of Dhaka, police said.

mission comes in view of the friendly ties binding HH the Amir with each of the presidents of Turkey and Bulgaria.

KUNA has learnt from Foreign Ministry sources that the team, which would fly to Turkey and Bulgaria on a mission assigned by HH the Amir, Chairman of the fifth session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Sheikh Sabah told KUNA and daily Al Seyassat that the team comprises (OIC) Secretary-General Dr Hamid Alghabid and Kuwait Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majid Al Shafee.

The acting premier pointed out that the

ambassador from Bulgaria, Talib Al Nagib for consultations with HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, and Sheikh Sabah.

The envoy briefed the Kuwaiti leadership. Sheikh Sabah had held informal contacts with senior officials in both countries to consider the initiative and reach a political initiative that would settle the problem.

The messages, according to the sources, outlined conclusions on how to settle the problem of the minority Muslim ethnic Turks in Bulgaria. Kuwait has recently recalled its

compared with about 3,000 in recent weeks.

■ A senior Bulgarian envoy, defending allegations of human rights abuses, says a mass exodus of ethnic Turks from Bulgaria is caused by liberal travel laws and not by persecution by the communist authorities.

■ Mauritanian leadership

■ Mauritanian Mines and Industry Minister Ahmed Oukli Khalifa today said the mediation efforts by the Amir of Kuwait had succeeded in bringing together both the Senegalese and Mauritanian residents to a meeting to discuss a dispute between the two

countries.

Speaking to daily Al Qasas, Khalifa held Senegal responsible for the ethnic violence in Senegal in which Mauritanian nationals were beaten, killed and others deported to Mauritania last April.

■ Mauritanian had similar charges against Senegal.

■ A dispute between Senegalese and Mauritanian cattle breeders over grazing rights at joint border district on April 9 had led to eruption of ethnic clashes between the people of the two countries.

■ Senegal today denied Mauritanian

accusations that it was preparing for war following their four month-old border dispute.

■ It would be madness to seek war ... our aim is not to wage war against Mauritania but to find a lasting settlement to our border dispute," Senegalese President Abdou Diouf told a meeting of the ruling Socialist Party in Dakar.

■ President Abdou Diouf denied today that his nation is seeking war with Mauritania, but strongly demanded that its neighbour stop deporting its own black citizens.

India pulls the light brigade

Off rode the 600



A few dozen members of India's Janata Party burn an effigy of Sri Lankan President Premadasa in New Delhi yesterday, as Indian troops resumed their withdrawal from Lanka. (Reuter wirephoto)



Indian troops seated outside the Trincomalee port in Sri Lanka's eastern province yesterday before boarding a ship for south India. (Reuter wirephoto)

Global tug-of-love

Who keeps the kids?

CAIRO, July 29. (Reuter): Barbara Mezo of Brooklyn, New York, does not know when she will see her two children again.

She has been searching for seven-year-old Mohammed and Leila, aged four, since their Egyptian-born father Abdell Aziz Mergawi brought them to Egypt in May last year despite a New York court decision granting custody to her.

A seven-member Sri Lankan delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, arrived in the Indian capital earlier today for three days of negotiations.

An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman described their first meeting, which lasted two hours, as warm and said the talks would

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

their original abode where the issue of custody should be settled.

The State Department said that in January it knew of nearly 700 cases of worldwide child abduction involving US nationals.

A spokeswoman said 246 were in Europe, 106 in Latin America, 78 in East Asia and 48 in Africa. There were 15 main Muslim Egypt and 199 elsewhere in the Middle East.

Parents like Mezo are banding together. A new pressure group, American children held hostage, wants parental child abduction made a US federal crime and tighter controls on illegal removal of minors from the country.

A Cairo court will hear an application by Mezo for custody of her children on October 3.

But it will also hear a custody application by their Egyptian grandmother on the ground that Mezo has turned her back on Islam, endangering the children's stability. Mezo insists she remains a Muslim.

Mezo, who uses her maiden name, said an Egyptian judge had granted her visiting rights to her children. But her husband would not disclose their whereabouts, and she did not know where to start looking in this teeming capital.

Mezo's problem, shared by hundreds of US parents in cases around the world, is compounded by lack of international co-operation in custody cases.

Religion, differing cultural outlooks and what she sees as official US indifference also affect her plight.

Mezo and two other American mothers in a similar position told Reuters that the US embassy had been less helpful in a country which receives some \$2.3 billion a year in US aid.

"They're bureaucrats," fumed Mezo. "They don't want to stick their necks out. If my children were adults, they would be considered hostages. But as minors they have no rights."

A consular official said the Cairo embassy gave advice and often helped win access to children, but stressed that such cases were governed by Egyptian law.

The US State Department said Egypt had not signed the Hague convention on the civil aspects of parental child abduction, in force in the United States since last year.

It requires signatories to return abducted children to

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Mezo is very depressed, at other times very angry," she said. "I dream about them. When I wake and remember they're not there I know it's going to be another terrible day."

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It requires signatories to return abducted children to

Rafsanjani wins landslide vote

TEHRAN, July 29. (AP): The expected landslide vote for Hashemi Rafsanjani as President and for constitutional changes that endow the post with more power was confirmed today as results rolled in from around the Islamic republic.

Press reports cast the vote for both Rafsanjani and the amendments as evidence that the goals of the Islamic revolution espoused by the late Ayatollah Khomeini are thriving.

But the voters seemed just to want the economy to improve.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said Rafsanjani, 54, received eight million of a total of 8.5 million votes counted, 12 hours after the polling stations closed.

That would give the middle-ranking cleric who has emerged as Iran's strongest since Khomeini's June 3 death, 94 per cent of the votes from 124 constituencies.

The agency also said that 97 per cent of the voters approved constitutional amendments in a referendum held alongside the election.

The preliminary results excluded votes cast in

Tehran, a city of seven million people, IRNA said.

Former Iranian Prime Minister Sharif Bakhtiar today denounced Iran's presidential poll and said the West was wrong if it thought it had found a "man of dialogue" in Rafsanjani.

Bakhtiar, prime minister of the late Shah until he was overthrown, in 1979, told French Radio: "In a country where there is no democracy the elections are nonsense."

Full report Page 9

Village Beirut ablaze; 8 killed

BEIRUT, July 29. (Agencies): Only one-sixth of Beirut's 1.5 million residents remained in the city today as Syrian and Christian gunners battered the area with rocket fire, killing eight people and wounding 42, police said.

Fires blazed out of control and palls of thick-black smoke billowed from gaping holes that rockets and shells made in apartment buildings in both Muslim and Christian sectors.

The overall toll to 502 killed and 2,056 wounded in the 19-week confrontation between Christian forces and Syrian Army gunners.

A police spokesman who cannot be named under regulations, estimated that only about 250,000 people remain in the city, the rest having fled to safer areas or abroad.

Most of Beirut's residents have left to South Lebanon, the eastern Bekaa Valley and the mountain resorts northeast of the city to escape the deadly shelling duels, the spokesman said.

Muslim and Christian radio stations interrupted regular programming early in the day to report that shelling duels were continuing across a mountain range southeast of the capital.

The fight started very early today," the Muslim-run Voice of the Nation radio reported in a news flash.

The Christian-controlled Voice of Lebanon radio urged civilians to "take maximum precaution because the shelling might escalate and spread to other areas."

The thuds of exploding shells echoed across the wooded hills south of Beirut early in the day as Syrian Army gunners pounded the Christian suburb of Baabda east of the capital.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Algeria arrived in Morocco today to renew Arab League efforts to silence Lebanon's blazing guns.

Algerian Foreign Minister Boudaoui Bessaieh told Moroccan Radio they would draw up a report for their heads of state with their Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Filali.

King Hassan of Morocco, King

INTERNATIONAL

Rains and floods grip Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 29, (KUNA): Heavy rains and floods have gripped three of Pakistan's four provinces, causing considerable loss of life and large-scale damage to standing crops.

An estimated 41 people have lost their lives due to rains and floods in the provinces of Sindh and Punjab in the last five days.

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, suffered most in terms of casualties as 25 persons became fatal victims of torrential monsoon rains in a four-day deluge during which nearly 200 millimetres of rainfall was recorded.

The deaths took place by drowning, house collapses and electrocution.

Large tracts of fertile lands in Sindh districts of Hyderabad, Larkana, Badin and Kharipur and Punjabi districts of Sialkot and Sheikhpura were inundated, forcing hundreds of thousands of villagers to leave their hearths and homes for safety. A 100-foot wide breach in Sindh submerged about 20 villages.

Worst effected crops were those of sugarcane and cotton.



Benazir Bhutto

Bhutto predicts continued Afghan warfare

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto predicts intensified war in the coming months between Afghanistan government forces and anti-communist rebels who, she says, "prefer to fight."

"I had hoped that political initiative would begin and we could work for a political settlement, but in its absence ... it does seem as though the military activities will pick up between now and when the next snows fall in November," Ms. Bhutto said in a

US Cable News Network interview aired yesterday. The interview was taped earlier this month in Paris, when the prime minister and other government leaders gathered for the French Revolution bicentennial.

She said she has personally confirmed that the rebel leadership, now formed as an interim government, will not negotiate with Soviet-installed Afghan leaders in Kabul.

"They are not prepared to discuss anything with

(Afghan President) Najibullah or the hardline PDP-A Party he heads, she said. "They were very firm in saying to me that, one, they are the symbol of Soviet rule, and, two, that there have been so many atrocities that it would be difficult for their followers to accept them negotiating, so that's out of the question...they prefer to fight."

During her Washington visit and speech to Congress earlier this year, Ms. Bhutto had talked of a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The prime minister also asserted to Congress that Pakistan does not have nuclear weapons and has no intention of possessing them.

Asked why Pakistan doesn't support her peace plan by agreeing to inspection of its atomic facilities, she suggested in the interview that the United States suggested joint nuclear nonproliferation measures on India, her country's traditional rival, as well as Pakistan.

See also page 2

India withdraws light brigade

(Continued from Page 1)

continue tomorrow and Monday.

He gave no further details but a diplomatic source said Wijeratne and India's Narasimha Rao barely progressed beyond preliminaries in the first session.

The talks were a condition of the agreement and are to cover security of all communities in the predominantly Tamil northeast as well as setting a schedule for the Indian troop withdrawal.

India, which has always maintained it had no intention of remaining indefinitely, had already withdrawn several thousand soldiers and pulled out an additional 5,000 shortly after Premadasa became President.

State-run television reported yesterday that Premadasa's troops shot and killed at least 74 people who violated a nationwide curfew to denounce the Indian presence and the Sri Lankan government.

But Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, just before leaving

today, said Indian force commander Gen Amarjit Kalkat, in comments to reporters at Trincomalee harbour, 236 kilometres (147 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Sri Lankan Army Gen Hamilton Wanasinghe, whose troops are based in Trincomalee and the rest of the troubled northeast, said: "This is a token gesture and the rest will follow."

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But Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, just before leaving

Colombo for the negotiations in New Delhi, said the actual toll may have been between 100 and 150 dead. He said most of those killed were Sinhalese radicals.

A soldier checks a car in Colombo during an islandwide curfew today to prevent anti-Indian protest. (Reuter wirephoto)

Polish president resigns party post

WARSAW, Poland, July 28, (AP): President Wojciech Jaruzelski resigned today as the head of the Communist Party he has led since 1981 and was replaced by outgoing Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski, the PAP news agency announced.

Rakowski was elected by a vote of 171 to 41, PAP said.

The resignation fulfilled a promise Jaruzelski made before becoming president July 19.

The selection of the 62-year-old Rakowski to replace Jaruzelski culminated a remarkable political rise by the politician, who joined the politburo only in December 1987 after having been dropped from the government in 1985. In recent months he has been roundly criticized for his government's handling of the economy.

A party member with a long reputation as a reformer, in the past year Rakowski has become the champion of conservative elements in the party and those concerned about the rising influence of Solidarity.

The only remaining major question facing the plenum appeared to be who will replace Rakowski as prime minister.

Potential candidates appeared to be politburo member Wladyslaw Baka, Ireneusz Sekula, now deputy prime minister and a Rakowski loyalist, or Roman Malinowski, the leader of the allied United Peasant Party.

Malinowski might help ensure cohesion inside the shaky communist-led parliamentary coalition and would be the first non-communist to head an East Bloc government since the late 1940s.

Baka quit yesterday as party secretary in charge of the economy. It was unclear if he was resigning to take over the government or whether he was simply leaving — as a party spokesman said — to protest the economic record of the Rakowski government.

Rakowski assumed the government in October and submitted his resignation this month when the new parliament was seated.

The second day of the two-day plenum began today by wrapping up a discussion on the party's future.

According to the official PAP news agency, the plenum adopted a resolution declaring the party's willingness to work with the independent Solidarity trade union movement and with the 260 Solidarity lawmakers chosen by the voters in June.

As a result of the country's most democratic elections since World War II, the formerly banned Solidarity now controls 99 out of 100 seats in the new freely elected Senate and 161 of the 460 seats in the Sejm, or lower house.

The resolution reaffirmed the party's January decision to legalize Solidarity and "defined conditions" needed to improve the economy, PAP said, without elaborating.

Jaruzelski was expected to present his choice for prime minister Monday for approval by the Sejm.

In the past, the central committee has always approved the nominee to head the government, although it is not required under the constitution. Jaruzelski as president theoretically could propose the candidate unilaterally.

Government economic policies came under fire for the second time in two days today, this time in a speech by central committee member Jan Glowczyk. Yesterday, it was attacked by Baka.

Glowczyk said the government had drastically squandered society's confidence and the party was being blamed for its mistakes. He cited a poll saying 72 per cent of the people had faith in the government in November compared to 35 per cent in July.

"Today it is necessary to choose between the government and society," said Glowczyk. "We must do that comrades."

"Today it is necessary to choose between the government and society," said Glowczyk. "We must do that comrades."



A different drummer

A young man takes advantage of a warm sunny day to sit under a tree in London's Green Park and practise on a bongo drum. Weather in southeast England has been unusually hot and dry for the last two months. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourists attacked: For the fifth time in 11 months, tourists watching African wildlife in a Kenyan game park have been ambushed, authorities said.

An American woman was shot dead and an American man was wounded in the latest assault, which happened at midday Thursday. They were shot and 17 of their companions were robbed by two men when they were held-up while driving between the Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks, authorities said yesterday.

The two men, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, attacked the tour group on the 60-kilometre (40-mile) stretch of road between the parks. It was the latest in a series of assaults on foreign tourists. (AP)

Police hunt: Spanish police scoured Madrid today for a bald security guard with a squat whom they suspect of driving away with a cool \$2.2 million in cash.

The 40-year-old guard, a driver with a security firm, waited at the wheel of an armoured van yesterday afternoon while two colleagues went into a city-centre cake shop to collect a consignment of money, police said.

When the two came out, the van, carrying at least 320 million pesetas (\$2.7 million), had vanished. (Reuter)

Suspect charged: A 57-year-old man was charged today with one of Britain's biggest cash robberies, the 1983 heist of nearly 6 million pounds (\$70 million) from Security Express, police said.

Frederick Forman appeared before magistrates in London and was ordered held in custody pending his next court appearance yesterday, said Scotland Yard.

He did not apply for bail.

Forman, who was living on Spain's southern Costa Del Sol, returned to Britain under police escort last night after being expelled from Spain. He was arrested at Heathrow Airport.

To be moved: Eleven thousand more people are to be moved from areas affected by high levels of contamination from the Chernobyl disaster, more than three years after the world's worst nuclear accident.

Two news agency said yesterday the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, of the Byelorussian Republic was told that 11,600 people running the risk of being exposed to excessive radiation would be moved in the next five years.

At least 100,000 people were evacuated from the Ukraine and Byelorussia in the immediate aftermath of the explosion and fire at Chernobyl on April 26, 1986, which killed 31 people and sent radioactive particles floating across most of Europe. (Reuter)

State of emergency: California wildfires forced the evacuation of several communities and a university campus yesterday, and Idaho's governor declared a state of extreme emergency because of forest fires there.

A wind-whipped brush fire swept through the foothills in central California, burning at least 1,000 acres (404 hectares), fire officials said.

Bingo Day 12
49 72 52 38

Fazle Haq transferred to judicial lock-up

ISLAMABAD, July 29, (KUNA): Late President Zia-ul-Haq's right-hand man and former military governor of North West Frontier Province General Fazle Haq, facing a murder charge, was today transferred from police custody to judicial lock-up in Peshawar.

The transfer was ordered by a magistrate of Peshawar city today when police produced Fazle Haq, now a member of the National Assembly, before him with a plea that he be allowed to keep Haq in his custody for more time in order to further interrogate him in connection with the murder last year of Shia leader Ali Hussain.

Fazle Haq had already been in police custody for one week under a 7-day police remand granted by a local magistrate.

The magistrate ordered that Fazle Haq, a retired lieutenant-general and a former chief minister of the frontier province, be produced before him on July 31 in connection with his application to grant him bail in the Hussain murder case in which he pleads innocent.

General Fazle Haq, a prominent member of the opposition Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) alliance, was arrested July 22 when a Peshawar High Court cancelled his pre-arrest bail application granted to him earlier by Lahore High Court on July 11. On July 26 his bail petition filed in the Supreme Court, was also dismissed.

The IJI and other supporters of the disgraced general held a protest meeting in Peshawar city yesterday followed by a big procession.

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INTERNATIONAL

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: Deaths from lung cancer continue to rise sharply among women in the United States, according to a new federal health report out here yesterday.

The centres for disease control said in the report that such deaths increased by 44 per cent among women from 1979 to 1980, as against 7 per cent for men.

The report says the difference reflects a 35-year lag in the peak exposure to cigarettes, which cause 80 per cent of all lung cancer deaths.

For American men that peak occurred before 1952, for women the peak exposure was in the 1960s. Lung cancer has surpassed breast cancer as the most common cause of cancer death among women in the US. (Reuters)

LOS ANGELES: A Mexican police officer was arraigned yesterday in the 1985 torture-murder of US drug agent Enrique Camarena.

Juan Jose Bernabe-Ramirez, described as a police officer from the western state of Jalisco, was arrested Thursday in Los Angeles as he was about to return to Mexico, according to a US Drug Enforcement Administration affidavit.

The affidavit alleges that Bernabe told two undercover DEA agents he was present when reputed Mexican drug lord Rafael Caro-Quintero tortured Camarena. Last year, a jury in the United States convicted three men of the murders, including a former Mexican police officer, Ramon Alvarez. (AP)

FREELAND, Michigan: A chemical fire in a tank car finally burned itself out six days after the derailment of a CSX Transportation Inc. train, but about 200 residents remained evacuated yesterday.

It was a slow fire at times. We had introduced air... through an intake valve to intensify the burn" and speed it up, CSX spokesman R. Lindsay Leekie said.

Emergency crews pumped about 2,000 gallons of chlorofluorocarbons out of the tank car while the chemical, a liquid used in silicon production, continued burning, he said. (AP)

SALZBURG, Austria: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees today named conductor Riccardo Muti as an honorary ambassador to defend the rights of the world's 14 million refugees.

High Commissioner Jean-Pierre Hocke handed over UN diplomatic passport to Muti, music director of La Scala in Milan and the Philadelphia Orchestra, who plans to conduct two benefit concerts for UNHCR and visit refugee camps around the world.

The image of a musician generally is of a romantic personality living his life by himself, not caring about the problems of the world," Muti told a news conference in Salzburg, where he is conducting at the Salzburg Festival.

"I always believe that a real artist should be involved in social life, paying attention to the problems of mankind. (Reuters)

TUCSON, Arizona: A county official says people have made such a big deal about his reporting of marijuana pollen levels for allergy sufferers that he no longer will provide the data.

"It's just becoming an unduly great issue considering the fact the pollen is relatively insignificant in terms of our total counts," said Mark Saeffer, who runs the Pima County health department's pollen- and mold-detecting programmes.

He said Thursday he would include marijuana pollen in the catch-all category of "others."

Since the early 1980s, the pollen of cannabis sativa, or marijuana, has appeared on the list, published during the spring and summer to warn the allergy-prone of high pollen levels. (AP)

BAR HARBOR, Maine: The fire-damaged Jackson laboratory is taking on a crash programme to replenish the nation's supply of rare research mice and gambling that tax money will keep it in business.

The world's leading producer of unusual laboratory mice is using all its resources on mouse production rather than rebuilding, its director said.

The fire two months ago at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor crippled medical research around the globe.

The laboratory is the world's leading centre for the study of mouse genetics. The fire on May 10 destroyed the laboratory's mouse production facilities and killed 400,000 research mice. (AP)

SCHAGEN, Netherlands: Skeletal remains believed to be those of a British soldier purportedly killed at the Battle of the Somme were stolen from a Dutch museum by a war veteran who says he's seeking a more dignified fate for the remains.

Draped in a vintage British military coat and posed in a trench mock-up, the skull and left leg bones were the centrepiece of the Somme museum, a private collection of war memorabilia devoted to the 1916 World War I battle, in which more than one million British, French and German soldiers died.

In a telephone interview, Korean war veteran John Blumming told the Associated Press that he walked into the museum Tuesday, wrapped the remains in a Union Jack and took them away. He said he plans to give them a military burial.

Police say they do not plan to file charges against Blumming. (AP)

JOHANNESBURG: A row over President P.W. Botha and a truck full of dead animals with his name on them appeared to subside yesterday.

An opposition member of parliament demanded this week that Botha and his entire cabinet resign because a police vehicle was used to transport the animals — 10 antelope and a cow — for Botha after a game hunt.

This was illegal, said Fanie Jacobs of the ultra-rightist Conservative Party. Moreover, he said the vehicle had false number plates and the driver was not authorised to transport dead animals.

Each of the animals was clearly labelled "State President P.W. Botha." (Reuters)

TOKYO: The Soviet Union has proposed developing a spacecraft with Japan. Japanese officials said yesterday.

The proposals were made last Tuesday when six Soviet officials from the Soviet Space Agency, Glavcosmos, and Energia, the Soviet Space and Industry Corporation, visited Japan's National Space Development Agency (NASDA), an agency official said.

Among the proposals, the delegates said the Soviet Union is ready to provide Japan with technology to manufacture the Energia rocket, the world's largest rocket that is capable of launching an 18-tonne payload into space, or export to Japan a rocket that can lift a payload of about two tonnes into orbit, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. (AP)

ST PAUL, Minnesota: Explorer Will Steger and his international trans-Antarctica expedition team were into the second day yesterday of their \$1-million, 4,000-mile (6,400-kilometres), seven-month traverse of the continent.

Steger and his five foreign companions left from the northwestern tip of the Antarctic peninsula on Thursday, five days ahead of schedule on a quest to alert the world to environmental dangers.

An American ABC Television network field producer and a three-person film crew from France loaded their own sled and mushed after the expedition team to record its first week on the ice. (AP)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: Mount McKinley in Alaska appears to be 14 feet (four metres) shorter than previously thought, the national parks service said yesterday.

Spokesman John Quinley said a geological team from the University of North America's highest peak to be 20,306 feet (6,190 metres), not 20,320 feet (6,194 metres), its official height since 1954.

Robert Selbert, head mountain ranger at Denali National Park, said the new measurement still left the mountain, which attracts climbers from around the world, with the highest peak title.

Three Britons and three Japanese have died climbing the mountain this year. (Reuters)

MOSCOW: The next manned mission to the Soviet Space Station Mir will start in mid-September and take two cosmonauts up for several months of research and a space walk, Tass said yesterday.

The space station has been empty since April. Tass said two crews are training for the flight. (AP)

BOSTON: The state revenue department, which last year began taxing bookies, prostitutes and drug dealers, now is considering a tax on the profits of illegal drug sales.

The programme, expected to take effect this fall, is an outgrowth of a year-old state effort to collect taxes on income derived from illegal sources. The new programme would levy a 5 per cent tax on narcotics profits.

Revenue officials began collecting state income tax on criminal profits in 1988, issuing \$128,000 in bills. Last fiscal year, the Revenue Department billeted bookies, prostitutes and drug dealers for more than \$2.1 million. (UPI)



Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Alexandra Biryukova (right) is shown a ladies blazer by British Industry Minister Lord Trefgarne while visiting a downtown London department store. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets tall order

Shopping spree worth millions.

LONDON, July 29, (Reuters): A Soviet Deputy Premier said yesterday she ordered 100 million pounds (\$165 million) worth of consumer goods, ranging from toothpaste to pantyhose, for her compatriots squeezed by the worst shortages in decades.

Deputy Prime Minister Alexandra Biryukova, a deputy voting member of the ruling Communist Party Politburo and the top-ranked woman in the Soviet government, said her five-member delegation also visited more than 20 companies and agreed to several joint ventures.

Mrs Biryukova was leading a delegation of five ministers on a visit this week to promote Soviet-British trade. The delegation said its purchases, most for delivery by the end of this year, were required by severe shortages of basic consumer items in the Soviet Union.

The delegation ordered 50 million pairs of pantyhose, 1.7 million pairs of women's shoes, coffee, toothpaste, shaving blades, cassette tapes, soap, women's clothing and other goods.

It also purchased 35 million rubles (\$55 million) worth of drugs, but did not give specific values for other goods that made up the total.

The delegation topped off its weeklong trip with a visit to Marks and Spencer, the department store chain favoured by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and millions of budget-conscious Britons.

Mrs Biryukova visited the sales floor, a training class and the staff restaurant, where she drank a cup of tea, director Nigel Coote told the Associated Press.

The deputy prime minister gave no details of the joint ventures. Soviet Embassy officials did not return calls and British officials said they did not know details of the agreements.

Mrs Biryukova described her meeting Wednesday with Thatcher as friendly and constructive, saying they had discussed the two countries' trade target set last year.

'She ain't afraid of no ghost'

Ghostbuster fans cash in

NEW YORK, July 29, (Reuters): When those big-screen "ghostbusters" returned this summer to bathe the fiendish slime pulsing up through the sidewalks of New York, two Harlem schoolgirls decided to get in on the act by making their own slime.

Alicia and Miya Bankhead, 10 and 8 respectively, set up a sidewalk stand in the city's Greenwich village section to sell their homemade "slime" eggs.

Unlike the film's slime, which is pink, their slime, packaged in a plastic egg, comes in 13 colours — ranging from salmon to pistachio — and a clear variety that glows in the dark.

"Once you play with it, you can't keep your hands off it," said Miya, who wore a red Fez emblazoned with the words "keeper of the slime."

The sisters are fans of a Ghostbusters cartoon show on television. After seeing the original Ghostbusters movie last winter, they bought some commercially produced slime at a toy store.

Then their father, a chemistry teacher, told them he could make slime from scratch.

"The first time my father made some it was like a miracle," recalled Alicia.

"Dad gave the girls the formula — water and food colouring mixed with sodium borate and polyvinyl alcohol, which are available at standard chemical supply houses — and before long the sound of cash registers resounded loudly in their heads.

"I thought we could sell it and everybody could have homemade slime," said Alicia.

The girls can make the slime right before your eyes.

After a customer chooses a colour, they add a little sodium borate and food colour with an eye dropper to the polyvinyl alcohol they have squirted into a small bowl from a soapdish container. Then they mix the two and scoop out the resulting slime into a plastic egg.

Children play with the slime by squeezing it and tossing it around.

Chemistry seems to come naturally to the girls, who are more than willing to recite the slime formula for customers. So does the entrepreneurial spirit. A good day, they told Reuters, can bring them \$100.

Two ounces (56 grammes) sell for \$2, four ounces cost \$3.

The Bankhead girls had not seen the summer film hit "Ghostbusters II," although they used a poster of the movie to promote their cottage industry.

The use of the Ghostbusters logo and the term "slime" could create some potentially sticky legal problems for the family. "Ghostbusters" is copyrighted by its studio, Columbia Pictures, and "slime" is a trademark of Mattel, which once made a slime of its own.

When informed of the bootleg slime, however, a lawyer at Columbia Pictures replied: "What am I supposed to do, prosecute these kids?"

Glenn Bozarth, a spokesman for Mattel, reacted with similar disinterest. "It sounds like kids having fun and we're certainly not going to interrupt that," Bozarth said.

And the girls seem not to be haunted by bogeyman, legal or otherwise, who may be lurking in the wings.

Asked whether they believed in ghosts, Miya replied with an emphatic "no," Alicia acknowledged the existence of paranormal beings, although she apparently isn't intimidated by them.

Quoting a line from the popular Ghostbusters theme song, the little slime-maker declared: "I ain't afraid of no ghost."

'Oh, Calcutta' cast will take it all off for last time Aug 6

NEW YORK, July 29, (AP): They're bar-ing all for the last time.

"Oh, Calcutta," Broadway's long-running nude revue, will close Aug 6 after a run of 5,959 performances. Executive Producer Maria di Dia announced yesterday.

"It's been an exciting ride, and I'm sad to see it end," said Ms Di Dia. "But I'm also happy because no one ever expected this show to succeed."

The current edition of the show opened

Sept. 24, 1976, at the Edison Theatre. It was the second major incarnation for the revue, which premiered originally in 1969 at off-Broadway's Eden Theatre, moved in 1971 to Broadway's Belasco Theatre and ran there until the following year.

The show has been seen my more than 85 million people in 18 countries, according to Ms Di Dia, and has grossed more than \$350 million.

Among the more than 1,400 performers who appeared in various productions of

the revue are Bill Macy, formerly of the television show "Maudie" Alan Rachins of the show "L.A. Law" Samantha Harper, Steve Keats and choreographer Margot Sappington.

"Oh, Calcutta" was first put together in 1969 by British critic Kenneth Tynan, who wanted to stage a musical revue about "the pursuit of happiness through sex."

The current production of "Oh, Calcutta" was produced by Norman Kean, who operated the Edison Theatre. Kean

jumped to his death last year from his New York apartment after stabbing his wife, actress Gwyda Donohoe, to death.

During its long run, "Oh, Calcutta" has been engaged in a battle of statistics with "A Chorus Line."

Although it opened on Broadway more than a year after "A Chorus Line," "Oh, Calcutta" has given more performances because its schedule calls for 10 performances each week rather than the customary eight.

Most of Saint Laurent's even-

ing wear had a touch of magic.

New treatment possible

Answers to cancers

BERKELEY, California, July 29, (UPI): Reducing the body's production of cholesterol, already a main villain in heart disease, can prevent a maverick protein from triggering the uncontrollable growth that leads to cancer, two scientists say.

In a surprising and promising development, the California researchers found that reducing cholesterol production in a cell can prevent a defective form of a vital human protein from setting off the growth that can lead to deadly tumours.

Called RAS, the protein has been linked to the development of several cancers, including colorectal and pancreatic, two of the most deadly tumours among US victims, the University of California, Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley laboratory researchers wrote in Friday's Journal of Science.

"Our finding opens new avenues for investigating these cancers and potentially for treating them with cholesterol-reducing drugs, which are safer than current therapies," said Jasper Rine, associate

professor of genetics.

Scientists think the normal RAS protein — which has already gotten a great deal of attention because it apparently plays a key role in the regulation of cell growth — provides the vital signals to cells to start and stop dividing.

But a defective form of the protein — found in pancreatic, colorectal and several other cancers — apparently acts like a switch stuck in the "on" position, signalling cells to divide indefinitely and leading to cancer.

When the defective protein was deprived of cholesterol, it could no longer transmit the signal that begins cell division, the scientists found.

"We have uncovered a novel approach for investigating and possibly stopping the growth of tumours that are the product of RAS oncoproteins," said Sung-Hou Kim, a chemistry professor and director of the chemical bio-dynamics division of the Lawrence Lab.

Sexy is in, power dressing is out

PARIS, July 29, (AP): Sexy, rather than power dressing, is the idea this season as couture designers unveil extravagant clothes in opulent fabrics for the winter of 1989-90.

Most couturiers have backed off from the big padded shoulder, after Christian Lacroix led the way two seasons ago, burying shoulders under big fuchsia wraps.

But in showings last week, it was clear that at least two designers — Saint Laurent and Givenchy — still believe that padding gives the right shape to suit jackets.

Skirt lengths are irrelevant. The many knee-baring skirts still look appealing for those with good legs, especially when the skirts are given the tump-wrap treatment.

<p



Suspected spy Felix Bloch arrived at his daughter's home in Chappaqua on Thursday. The career diplomat suspected of espionage, told investigators the USSR paid him "a lot of money". (Reuter wirephoto)



Felix Bloch walks his dog with the FBI escorting him through the neighbourhood in Westchester County. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bloch agonised over co-operating: paper

NEW YORK, July 28. (Reuter): Felix Bloch, the US diplomat suspected of spying for Moscow but not charged, had been "agonising" over whether to co-operate with investigators, until the case was made public, the New York Times reported today.

The paper quoted an unnamed official as saying that Bloch had been uncertain how much government investigators knew until he learned from the news media that the probe began only recently. Such knowledge would have strengthened him in dealing with the government, the official said.

The New York Times said it was a common ploy of investigators to hint to suspects that more was known of their activities than they could guess. This had prompted some suspects in the past to make damaging admissions, it said.

Bloch, formerly the number two diplomat at the US embassy in Vienna, is on paid leave from the State Department but has not been arrested or charged with any crime.

Meanwhile, President George Bush has expressed concern that news leaks may jeopardise a reported espionage investigation

Fake news trends stir fears in US media

WASHINGTON, July 29. (Reuter): A television technique of faking video coverage of news events — brought sharply into focus in the case of alleged spy Felix Bloch — is sounding alarms in US broadcasting and journalism.

"I don't know what this is leading to, but it is (junk) television," said Dean (CQ) Mills, Dean of University of Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, Missouri.

The debate over simulation heated up this week when ABC-TV anchorman Peter Jennings apologised to his viewers for failing to label video footage as fake.

The network neglected to identify from

the start that it had staged an event with actors in what appeared to be a Vienna street scene purporting to show Bloch, a State Department official under investigation for alleged espionage, passing a briefcase to a Soviet agent.

"I think it's an outrageous trend," Mills said in an interview. "The distinctions between journalism and entertainment are blurred enough in television and this blurs out any distinction."

It was a typical reaction from journalists and broadcasters interviewed about what some fear will be a trend perhaps internationally to "stimulate" news events

when genuine video or film footage is unavailable, or to save costs.

Reconstruction for TV of major events has been around for some time, mostly on documentaries or historical programmes.

But there is new concern about the trend spreading into news broadcasts with a high-tech ability to produce realistic images through computer graphics at a time when major US networks are fighting for an edge in a dwindling market.

Although Bloch is under suspension and investigation, no charges have been lodged against him. The Soviet Union denies he spied for them.

of US diplomat Felix S. Bloch.

But like the FBI and Justice Department, Bush declined yesterday to provide any facts about the Bloch investigation, which was leaked to the public a week ago.

The State Department has revoked Bloch's diplomatic passport. Under heavy FBI surveillance, he has been visiting relatives in New York for a week.

Government sources, demanding anonymity, have said Bloch was video-taped passing a brief-

case to a Soviet agent in Paris recently and that the same Soviet agent was monitored telephonically with what appeared to be a warning that he was under investigation.

A Congressional source told the Associated Press the FBI currently believes Bloch was recruited as a spy while he was serving at the US Embassy in East Berlin 14 years ago.

In 1974, Bloch became economic counselor in the newly opened US embassy in East

Berlin. He served there for two years after transferring from West Berlin where he was economic-commercial and trade promotion officer in the US mission from 1970 to 1974.

In Austria, where Bloch served from 1980 to 1987 as No 2 official in the US embassy, Interior Minister Franz Loeschnig confirmed news reports that Bloch had travelled to Vienna several times in the past 10 years on false Finnish papers.

"We assume he worked for the KGB," Danzinger said.

The woman returned from a vacation in Egypt and was questioned by Austrian authorities this week. Austria's top police official, Robert Danzinger, said, but this yielded no evidence she suspected anything about Bloch.

Danzinger said yesterday that a suspected KGB agent who may have been a contact man for Bloch travelled to Vienna several times in the past 10 years on false Finnish papers.

"We assume he worked for the KGB," Danzinger said.

'Salvage parts used in DC engines'

No evidence of 'scrap'

SIOUX CITY, Iowa, July 29. (UPI): An investigation into the crash of United Airlines Flight 223 has found no evidence aircraft engine maker General Electric used scrapped military parts, a national Transportation Safety Board spokesman said.

On Thursday, Congressman John Dingell, Democrat of Michigan and chairman of the House of Representatives energy and commerce subcommittee, asked the Federal Aviation Administration to investigate reports that scrap parts were used in the engine of the DC-10 that crashed July 19 in Sioux City with the loss of 111 lives.

Dingell said the General Accounting Office found GE has been using salvage parts bought at Kelly Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas.

GE has denied scrap parts were used in the jet engines and NTSB spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz said no evidence has been found in his agency's separate probe to support Dingell's allegations.

NTSB agents have been pouring over manufacturing records at GE's Evendale, Ohio, plant for a week, Lopatkiewicz said.

"They're looking through the manufacturing history of the fan assembly components and at this time we've found nothing about scrap parts," he said.

The investigation into the crash is centred on the tail engine, which the flight crew said exploded and was believed to have severed hydraulic lines controlling the jet's tailoring during the runway takeoff.

Parts from the tail engine have been found, but the 3-foot-wide (1-m) fan rotor that may have torn through the hydraulic lines in the tail has so far eluded searchers.

Lopatkiewicz said the rotor parts are essential to the crash investigation and the search will continue until the piece or sections of the rotor are found.

What is left of the tail engine will be shipped from Sioux City to the GE plant next Tuesday, Lopatkiewicz said.

Meanwhile, 23 survivors from the crash remain hospitalized in Sioux City with four of them in critical condition.



Martian moon Phobos

A new picture of the Martian moon Phobos with the red planet in the background, taken by the Russian space probe Phobos 2 from a distance of 200 kms on February 29 this year. Crater-ridden Phobos is 800 kms

from Mars, which is well over 100 million miles from Earth. A conference of 800 international scientists at Exeter University today heard that the Russians expect to land a robot on Mars by the turn of the century. (Reuter wirephoto)

Flight recorders of Korean DC-10 found

TRIPOLI, July 29. (Reuter): The flight recorders of the Korean Airlines (KAL) DC-10, which crashed at Tripoli airport, killing 78 people, have been found but it will take time to analyse them, a Libyan official said today.

Seven Libyans on the ground were among those killed when the plane with 197 people aboard ploughed through houses and orchards in thick early-morning mist on Thursday.

Mustafa Maghrebi, head of a Libyan commission of inquiry, told Reuters that neither Libya nor a visiting team of KAL experts had the

means to interpret the recordings.

"We will probably ask a European country to work on them," Maghrebi said at Tripoli airport.

Maghrebi's commission and the KAL team, led by company chairman Cho Cheong-Hoon, listened today to the tape of exchanges between the pilot and the control tower but apparently came to no conclusions.

The Libyan official confirmed the pilot's last remark was "I am going to land" at about 7.13 am (0513 GMT). The recording was clear and there was no distortion in the communication.

In Seoul, a KAL spokesman said a second plane had left for Libya with medical supplies and 41 coffins. The plane which brought Cho and the rest of the KAL team on Friday was carrying 38 coffins.

The admiral did not give any details. He said the action was part of a general reduction in Soviet armed forces.

Soviet spy ship turns fleeing Cubans over to US

MIAMI, July 29. (AP): Three Cubans who survived almost a week at sea on whatever sea creatures they could catch bashed their way to the US Coast Guard, not their communist nation.

The men were badly sunburned, dehydrated and exhausted after a six-day, 125-mile (200-kilometre) voyage during which they lost their food, their boat and one of their companions.

They were taken to Jackson Memorial

Hospital and treated for dehydration and severe sunburn. A hospital spokesman said they were in stable condition last night.

The Soviet ship, identified in the reference book Jane's Fighting Ships as the 274-foot (83 metre) Zaporozhye, spotted the three Cubans clinging to an inner tube and rescued them yesterday morning about 26 miles (41 kilometres) southeast of Cape Florida off Miami, the Coast Guard said.

The refugees identified themselves as

his son Pedro Gomez Cruz, 17, of Camaguey and Arsenio's brother Humberto Valentin Gomez, 48, of Bahia Honda.

Junior Aralia Gomez, 20, cousin and nephew to the other three, was lost at sea.

They had secretly built a 12-foot (3.6 metre) wooden rowboat which they loaded with supplies and ties to an inner tube from a tractor-trailer tire. They set out last Saturday night.

The rowboat overturned Monday night in rough seas, spilling their provisions.

Top Soviet military adviser meets Bush

US leader seeks arms accord

WASHINGTON, July 29. (UPI): President George Bush met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's top military adviser to express his desire for an early arms control agreement and to discuss reforms in the Soviet Union.

During the one-hour meeting yesterday in the Oval Office, Bush and retired Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev "exchanged views on a wide range of topics including the status of arms control negotiations," said White House spokesman B. Jay Cooper.

"The president reiterated his desire to see early agreement in these negotiations. He was particularly interested to hear the views of Marshal Akhromeyev on the relationship of domestic reform to Soviet security policy," Cooper said.

Also attending the meeting were Vice President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.



Members of Greenpeace leave the submarine USS Tennessee off Port Canaveral, Florida after placing a flag which called for nuclear free seas on the communications tower of the submerged sub. (Reuter wirephoto)

Activists stop missile launch

Trident 2

NAME: Trident 2 D-5.
Builder: Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., Sunnyvale, California.

Cost: \$26.5 million each.

Height: 44 feet (13 m).

Diameter: 6.9 feet (2 m).

Weight: 126,000 pounds (56 tons).

Number of stages: three.

Number of warheads: classified: At least eight and possibly as many as 12.

Propellant: solid: nitrate-piezoelectric polyethylene glycol.

Controls: single moveable nozzle per stage, controlled by a gas generator.

Range: More than 4,600 miles (7,400 km), possibly as much as 6,300 miles (10,100 km).

Accuracy: classified: thought to be capable of placing independently targetable warheads within 400 feet (121 m) of a target.

Launch System: Ohio-class nuclear submarines equipped with 24 missile tubes.

History: test flights began in January 1987 and the first 19 launches took place from a ground pad at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The Trident 2 record for 16 success and four failures, although the Navy test for test, so we will concentrate on eliminating the Trident 2 through the political process," he said. "But we won't rule out returning to the range eventually."

The Navy called off the Trident 2 test several hours after the Greenpeace vessels penetrated the safety zone.

"As in the case of all Navy operations, safety was a primary consideration," a Navy statement said. "Notices to airmen and mariners, warning ships and aircraft away from the test area, as well as repeated on-scene warnings from the test ship participants, were acknowledged but ignored."

"We don't think we can match the Navy test for test, so we will concentrate on eliminating the Trident 2 through the political process," he said. "But we won't rule out returning to the range eventually."

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"When range safety could not be assured, the launch was terminated and will be rescheduled. The lost time involved significant cost to the American taxpayer."

"We're happy about it, of course," Greenpeace spokesman Shannon Fagan said.

Fagan said two large Greenpeace ships and two motorised rafts shadowed the submarine for hours, exercising their right to operate in international waters. Safety regulations require that a countdown be stopped if non-essential boats approach within about three miles (4.8 kilometres) of the submarine.

One of the motorised rafts stepped up the submerged Tennessee and the three-man crew attached three "nuclear free seas" banners to the submarine, two to the radio mast and one on the side, Fagan said.

Firm on defence Compromise on tax

WASHINGTON, July 29. (AP): President George Bush, facing battles with Congress on several fronts, says he's standing firm on his military spending plan but is willing to compromise on his proposal to cut the capital gains tax.

Bush insisted yesterday that he will be able to have his way with the Senate on his defense package even after the House this week shredded it, slashing key components such as the space-based weapons system known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, and the Stealth bomber, mobile MX missile and Midgetman missile.

"I am disappointed that the House did what they did," Bush told a news conference, noting that the chamber restored money for some programmes he wants to cut.

"Yesterday was not the House's most memorable moment, but we're going to keep fighting on for what we believe in."

But Bush said he's willing to look at alternatives on his proposal to cut the 33 per cent maximum capital-gains rate to 15 per cent.

On another topic, Bush decried news leaks in the espionage investigation of US diplomat Felix S. Bloch.

"I am very concerned about premature discussions and disclosure — that means leaks — on this matter, because I think you can jeopardise the case itself and perhaps the man's ability to get a fair hearing," Bush said.

No charges have been filed against Bloch, but the State Department revoked his diplomatic passport and put him on paid leave June 22. He is under heavy FBI surveillance.

Bush also said:

■ He's confident his multibillion-dollar bailout plan for the savings and loan industry will prevail, despite a House-Senate conference agreement this week that rejected a key funding mechanism on which he has insisted.

■ He still wants a constitutional amendment to ban burning of the American flag, but didn't answer directly when asked if he would settle for a Democratic-sponsored effort, passed this week by the House Judiciary Committee, to outlaw flag burning through a statute rather than amending the constitution.

■ He was frustrated over the US inability to get Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega out of power.

Superpower summit tops agenda

Baker, Shevardnadze begin talks

PARIS, July 29, (Reuter): US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze began talks in Paris today on preparations for a possible superpower summit and prospects for peace in Cambodia.

Baker, who last saw Shevardnadze in Moscow in May, went with aides to the Soviet ambassador's residence on the left bank of the River Seine for the scheduled two-hour meeting.

"We will discuss future meetings at the ministerial level," Shevardnadze told journalists, referring to plans for a meeting in New York in September ahead of the United Nations General Assembly.

The full-scale ministerial meeting, with teams of advisers on both sides, will discuss what has now become a routine agenda for the

two powers — arms control, human rights, regional issues and the environment.

US sources said the meeting could take place around September 25.

Baker told reporters on his plane earlier that a summit between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush would probably be discussed.

The Soviet Union has displayed impatience with what it perceives as a slackening of momentum in the superpower dialogue since the last summit between Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev and former president Ronald Reagan in New York in December.

Bush has said he will meet Gorbachev when "there was something constructive" to come out of a summit.

Arms control — conventional and nuclear — remains the key issue.

In May the Soviet Union announced it was withdrawing 500 short-range nuclear missiles from Europe this year.

The US regained the initiative later in the month when Bush, on his first European trip as President, proposed a 20 per cent cut in US combat troops in Europe, cuts in airforces and new ceilings on both Soviet and US ground forces.

In a proposal he said would "really put Mr Gorbachev to the test" Bush suggested a time limit of between six months and a year for an agreement at the conventional forces (CFE) negotiations which began in Vienna last March.

The Vienna talks, in recess for the summer, are due to resume on September 7. Moscow has said the Bush timetable appears unrealistic.

Chinese defect

Zuos cross Korean demilitarised zone

SEOUL, July 29, (Agencies): A Chinese Army officer and his wife defected to South Korea through the demilitarised zone separating South Korea and North Korea, the South Korean Defence Ministry announced today.

The Chinese couple remained under the protective custody of the American-led United Nations Command (UNC) after walking across the border inside the truce village of Panmunjom inside the DMZ shortly after 11 am (0200 GMT) today, ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Yoon Chang-Ro said.

The UNC, including representatives of the United States and 15 other nations which helped South Korea repel a North Korean invasion in 1950, has jurisdiction over the border village, 56 kilometres (35 miles) north of Seoul.

A government intelligence source, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the officer as Maj. Zuo Xukai, 40, a member of the Chinese delegation to the Korean military armistice commission, a watchdog body that helps maintain the 1953 ceasefire agreement that in effect ended the Korean war.

Zuo is the fourth-ranking officer in the Chinese delegation, headed by a brigadier general, the intelligence source said.

A senior official at the government's national unification board, requesting anonymity, had earlier said the Chinese couple will be handed over to South Korea shortly.

It was not immediately known where Zuo wants to go for settlement. Some Chinese Air Force pilots who flew their jets to South Korea in the past were eventually allowed to defect to Taiwan.

The Taiwanese embassy in Seoul said it was in contact with South Korean authorities to check Zuo's intentions. Local news reports, quoting government sources, said it was unlikely Zuo would be sent back to North Korea or China.

Even if Zuo wants to defect to Taiwan, he would not be sent there directly, because the Seoul government does not want to hurt its improving relations with Beijing, the reports quoted the sources as saying.

■ A Chinese embassy employee in Japan, who had reportedly been protected by the Japanese government while she sought asylum in a third country, has left for West Germany, newspapers said.

Ma Qiyun, 27, an employee at the visa section of the Chinese embassy in Tokyo, left Tokyo for Frankfurt yesterday, local media reported.

Lufthansa German airlines confirmed she took an afternoon flight for Frankfurt.

Kyodo news service reported that Ma, an attaché in the visa section of the embassy, had participated in protests against the Chinese government in Tokyo during the pro-democracy movement that swept Beijing in May.

Chinese authorities are secretly executing scores of people for offenses linked to support of the democracy movement, with many death sentences carried out near a famed bridge on the outskirts of Beijing, Chinese and Western sources say.

The Chinese sources, who are well-informed on security matters but who requested anonymity, said more than 40 people were put to death during the past two weeks at the Marco Polo bridge, 12 miles (20 km) southwest of the capital's urban districts.

Residents of the area appeared convinced in interviews that executions were being carried out there. The communist government has traditionally used the historical landmark as an execution ground since taking power in 1949, the Chinese sources said.

The sources also said the number of arrests in the nation-wide crackdown on democracy movement activists, supporters and liberal intellectuals has reached into the tens of thousands, with at least 10,000 detained in Beijing alone.

The sweep began after the Chinese Army moved into Beijing June 3 and brutally suppressed pro-democracy protesters. The capital has been under martial law since May 20.

At least 29 people are known to have been executed for offenses linked to the seven-week-long unrest between April and June. Most have been charged with violent or serious crimes.

Police and city officials in Beijing have seized 180,000 books and closed 30 private bookstores in a censorship campaign triggered by the crackdown on pro-democracy movement, the Chinese news agency said today.

On an order by the central government, a so-called "rectification" of publications markets has been under way since early this month in the capital and in several other major cities, including Shanghai and Central Xian.

China's leaders promised yesterday to abolish special privileges for themselves and their families in a move aimed at redressing grievances that led to the worst anti-government



Zuo Xukai (left) who defected to South Korea, is shown in this file photo, while he was chatting with a Chinese reporter in Panmunjom. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hashimoto seeks political reform

TOKYO, July 29, (AP): Calls are mounting for someone to rescue the ruling party from its worst crisis, but party Secretary General Ryutaro Hashimoto remains intensely cautious about taking what appears to be the political chance of a lifetime.

The 51-year-old lawmaker has emerged as the leading candidate to replace outgoing Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, who announced his resignation on Monday over the party's worst defeat ever in Sunday's upper house elections.

In an interview with the Associated Press at Liberal Democratic Party headquarters in Tokyo, Hashimoto suggested he is too young to be prime minister.

"There are many party elders who are willing to devote the rest of their lives for the country and the party," he said. "And I am in a position to find the next leader and build the party's consensus toward him."

"What's most important is to reconstruct the party from the election defeat and prepare for the next lower house election," Hashimoto said. "It is a life-or-death matter for us to retain our majority in the lower house."

"The LDP must be reformed by making its decision-making process "more transparent so that the public can understand what is happening," Hashimoto said.

"When we do things behind closed doors, it gives the impression that we're doing something wrong and trying to hide it," he said, and then chuckled. "If we can't put through reforms, we may lose in another election."

Plagued by a series of money and sex scandals and public uproar over an unpopular new tax, the Liberal Democrats lost 33 seats and their majority in the House of Councillors, the upper house, for the first time in the party's 34-year history.

The LDP continues to control the government and the premiership because of its majority in the more powerful house of representatives. But a defeat in a lower house election could cost the party its control of the government.

In the No. 2 position in the party, Hashimoto has been the virtual party chief in the past two months in place of Uno, whose leadership was severely damaged by allegations that he kept paid mistresses.

Hashimoto as the most energetic campaigner for their party's candidates in last Sunday's elections, making some 90 endorsement speeches compared with Uno's lone appearance.

The son of a former legislator, Hashimoto was elected to the house of representatives in 1964 at age 26 upon the death of his father. He worked for a textile company for a few years after graduating from college. At 51, he has been re-elected to the house nine times and has served as construction minister and transport minister.

7 youths jailed in Rangoon

RANGOON, July 29, (AP): A military tribunal has sentenced seven youths to five-year prison terms for staging anti-government demonstrations, a government newspaper said today.

Also today, a spokesman for the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy, said as many as 1,500 people have been arrested since the second week of July.

Police arrested the seven youths for shouting slogans July 17 in Rangoon's Shwedagon Pagoda Buddhist temple on a religious holiday, and sentenced them yesterday, the Working People's Daily said. It gave few other details.

On Tuesday, a military tribunal ordered the death sentence for three young members of the National League for Democracy who were convicted of planting a package bomb that killed two people at a government oil refinery on July 7. A Western diplomat today called the proceedings "a real show trial."

"They say that the prosecution was heard and the exhibits were shown, but the outside world hasn't seen anything," said the diplomat in Rangoon, who spoke by telephone to the Associated Press in Bangkok on condition of anonymity.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organization, also criticized the sentences.

According to the United Nations, executions resulting from summary procedures denying the right of legal appeal and omitting other fair safeguards constitute the "arbitrary deprivation of life," it said in a statement received in Rangoon.

Burma's military government recently has intensified its crackdown on the political opposition while releasing common criminals under an amnesty announced July 20. The Working People's Daily said 7,326 prisoners have been freed under the order.

Baker threatens to withhold aid

Conference on Cambodia



Baker (centre) arrives in Paris to hold talks with Shevardnadze and attend the peace conference on Cambodia. (Reuter wirephoto)

■ a formula for holding free elections.

■ the voluntary return of Cambodian refugees now living in camps in Thailand.

■ creation of a UN supervisory force to monitor the Vietnamese withdrawal and any elections.

The paper on US policy stressed that "our strong preference would be that there be no Khmer Rouge participation" at the conference.

Baker also said he may talk with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who will head Beijing's delegation.

After pledging to support Sihanouk even if he gave a role to the Khmer Rouge or Hun Sen's followers, the statement added:

"We have made it clear, however, that our ability to support any Cambodian government is directly and inversely related to the degree of Khmer Rouge participation if any, in it."

The paper then went on to declare: "The US cannot accept any role whatsoever in any future Cambodian government for the Khmer Rouge's leaders discredited before the world."

During its rule from 1975 until the Vietnamese invasion in 1978, the Khmer Rouge was blamed for the deaths of an estimated

one million Cambodians as it tried to force its vision of a classless agrarian society on the country.

Later today, Baker will meet for two hours with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, who is representing Moscow at the conference.

Baker also said he may talk with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who will head Beijing's delegation.

"With respect to that issue, I would say, 'stay tuned,'" Baker told reporters.

Khmer Rouge President Khiem Samphan, dismissing fears of a possible repeat of his movement's brutal 1975-79 rule, said Vietnam is the biggest danger facing Cambodia.

Khiem Samphan said in an interview with French television yesterday that Hanoi was exploiting concerns about the Khmer Rouge to subjugate Cambodia.

"That scarecrow is being used by the Vietnamese to harden international opinion (against the Khmer Rouge) but the veritable danger is actually that of Vietnamese expansionism," he said.

The paper then went on to declare: "The US cannot accept any role whatsoever in any future Cambodian government for the Khmer Rouge's leaders discredited before the world."

During its rule from 1975 until the Vietnamese invasion in 1978, the Khmer Rouge was blamed for the deaths of an estimated

Families of Americans missing in action told

'Ties with Vietnam only after settlement'

WASHINGTON, July 29, (UPI): President Bush said yesterday his administration will restore full relations with Vietnam only after a US-approved settlement in Cambodia and reiterated that accounting for Americans missing in action is a "matter of highest national priority."

Speaking to the annual gathering of families of US servicemen still listed as missing in action in Vietnam, Bush said, "now we are coming to a time when the divisions of the Vietnam war are

finest young men and women were lost during the many long years of the Vietnam war ... but as tragic as the loss of a loved one is, even more difficult to endure is the uncertainty which for you, has extended over so many years."

Noting that a "symbol of this commitment," the National League of Families' flag, is flying at the Capitol Rotunda, he declared, "the fullest possible accounting remains a matter of highest national priority."

Yet, we will not forget," he promised. "And we will never break ranks."

Noting that a "symbol of this commitment," the National League of Families' flag, is flying at the Capitol Rotunda, he declared, "the fullest possible accounting remains a matter of highest national priority."

There are 1,713 Americans listed as missing in action from the war that ended more than a decade ago and another 634 missing elsewhere in Indochina. Bush reached out to their relatives, saying, "some of our

relatives are lost during the many long years of the Vietnam war ... but as tragic as the loss of a loved one is, even more difficult to endure is the uncertainty which for you, has extended over so many years."

Police said the three priests were Nam Kuk-Hyon, 40, Koo Il-Mo, 40, and Park Byung-Jun, 37, all members of the dissident Catholic Priests' Commission for Justice. Police served arrest warrants at the Myeongdong cathedral in downtown Seoul.

Police said the three played leading roles in sending the Rev. Moon Kyu-Hyon, a Catholic priest studying in the United States, to North Korea to escort Im Su-Kyong, 20, back home through the border separating North and

South Korea.

Im and Moon went to the truce village of Panmunjom 35 miles (56 km) north of Seoul on Thursday and demanded to cross over into South Korea. They returned to the Pyeongyang when southern authorities at the truce site refused to allow them to enter the country.

Before their arrest, the three priests issued a statement at the cathedral saying they acted out of religious beliefs.

"We sent the Rev Moon to the North based on our

conscience as clergymen and to help national reunification," they said.

South Korea cancelled a meeting with North Korean Red Cross officials today, accusing them of meddling in politics instead of making efforts to resume work on family

exchanges.

South Korean Red Cross president Kim Sang-Hyup told a news conference he informed the north via telephone today that a scheduled meeting next Wednesday was indefinitely postponed.

In a message to his communist counterpart, Son Song Pil, Kim said the north "has muddied the atmosphere for the North-South Korean Red Cross meeting by turning Panmunjom into a sit-down site and a propaganda forum."

■ Typhoon Judy killed at least 11 people, left 40,000 homeless today and inundated South Korea, already sodden from five days of rain, weather experts said.

Statistics on the number of storm-related deaths and

homeless were issued by the National Disaster Centre, which said the numbers would increase as communications were restored to remote areas.

The state Korean Broadcasting System already was reporting that 19 people were killed or missing. Two fishing boats sank in rough seas and about 4,000 hectares of paddy fields were flooded, it said.

The typhoon followed five days of downpours that flooded vast areas of the south. Flooding during that period has killed 85 people, left 47 missing and some 112,000 people homeless, centre officials said.

Property damage was estimated at more than \$231 million over the five-day period, they said.

Priests detained for collaborating with fellow clergyman who went to Pyongyang to escort Im

'Ties with Vietnam only after settlement'

SEOUL, July 29, (Agencies): Police arrested three Catholic priests today on charges of collaborating with a fellow clergyman who went to Pyongyang to escort a dissident South Korean student home after a North Korean youth festival.

The three priests were Nam Kuk-Hyon, 40, Koo Il-Mo, 40, and Park Byung-Jun, 37, all members of the dissident Catholic Priests' Commission for Justice. Police served arrest warrants at the Myeongdong cathedral

10 new schools to open in Ahmadi

Committee to re-evaluate exams

THE acting assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for students information and affairs, and director of Ahmadi Educational Area Abdulla Al Lagman has said that ten new schools will be opened in Ahmadi educational area at the beginning of the new scholastic year. He added that five will be secondary schools (two for boys and three for girls) and the other five primary and intermediate schools.

A committee set up at the area to follow

up and prepare for the new academic year is still studying needs of different schools in the area for teachers, employees and maintenance works. He added that the existing wooden classrooms are being changed to normal concrete buildings. "We are working to air-condition all classrooms of primary schools and kindergartens in the area according to the Amir's desire," the official said.

Lagman pointed out that a mini reshuffle among headmasters and assistant head-

masters of schools is being made according to urgent needs or personal desire. He added that some teachers at the present schools of the area will be shifted to the new schools. The area suffers shortage in teaching staff especially teachers of English and science. This shortage will be solved by contracting teachers from some Arab countries, he said.

The director of Farwaniya Educational Area Ibrahim Abal Khail said that the Ministry of Education seeks to limit the

number of co-education schools (primary and intermediate schools) due to many reasons. But he added that separating these schools will be difficult because of lack of new sites especially in crowded areas.

He added that the ministry re-organised the examinations department and set up an expanded committee to re-evaluate the examination criteria at schools. The committee consists of specialists from the ministry and Kuwait University, he said.

Over 34pc children in GCC anaemic

MANAMA, July 29. (GNA): A study prepared by the head of the Nutrition Department at the Ministry of Public Health in Bahrain Dr Abdul Rahman Musaiger has outlined the existing situation of child nutrition in the GCC countries. The official said that unguided patterns of child nutrition was accountable for the proliferation of diseases among children.

Results of the study published by the Bahraini 'Al Ayyam' daily revealed 40 to 67 per cent of the total child population in Bahrain suffered from weight loss before reaching school age.

The study results indicated that 34 to 66 per cent of the total child population in the GCC suffered from iron deficiency. Anaemia is the most widely spread disease in rural as well as urban areas, as a result of naive nutritional habits, abstinence from breast-feeding and lack of nutritional awareness.

The study also indicated that many mothers could not prepare food for their babies in the right manner, which in most cases negatively affected the child's health. This is the result of poor education. Other causes of malnutrition have been attributed to food being kept under unhygienic conditions.

The study said that the absence of breast-feeding among mothers is attributed to their work outside the house which left them barely adequate time to tend to their babies.



Candidates for Little Mr and Miss Philippines with Jun Mercado co-chairman and Rosafe Austria, chairperson.

Little Mr and Miss Philippines rehearsed

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (KAPILKU) held their first rehearsal last Friday, at Keifan Gym for all participants of the Little Mr and Miss Philippines — Kuwait 1989.

Twenty contestants came to join the first rehearsal of the contest which was attended by their respective parents.

Acting Chairman Rosafe Austria presided over the introduction of all the participants with assistance from Jun Mercado, the co-chairman of the project.

AVPU Lulu Alelojo was the master of ceremony who made sure the rehearsal went over smoothly and to the interest of the participants. Lulu helped all the children adjust themselves to the questions and answers portion.

Talent

A talent portion was made for each participant to familiarise themselves with their actual positions at the contest. All the children were able to demonstrate their talents to the delight of their parents.

The second rehearsal will be held on Friday,

August 4 at Keifan Gym at 4:00 pm. All contestants are requested to come and all new children who wish to participate can also join the rehearsal.

Cash Prizes

The winners of the coveted title for Little Mr and Miss Philippines — Kuwait will receive cash prizes, of \$100.00 donated by the City International Exchange Co., W.L.L. and trophies as well. Runners-up will also be awarded trophies courtesy of Marina Layago and Atty. Mohd Saeed Al Awadi.

Pacman Contest

Aside from the parlor games and puppet shows, Pacman contest for the children will also be held in which the top two boys and girls will be given valuable prizes donated by Adawlah Universal Electronics Co.

Judges for Little Mr & Miss Photogenic are George Delacruz, P.J. Obiena and Danny Pangan.

For particulars, please contact Chairman Rosafe Austria, and Jun Mercado, co-chairman on telephone number 4899418 and VP Sarah Macarimbang on telephone number 4843447.

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One minute levy on person to person calls

Records wipe-out under investigation

By Jindrakota Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Communications will introduce a service charge for overseas person-to-person telephone calls adding an extra minute to the length of a call, a ministry spokesman told the Arab Times.

He clarified an earlier ministry statement carried by Kuwait News Agency saying that extra charges will be slapped on all international calls made through the operator. Kuwait charges an equal amount for international calls made through the operator and direct dialling. The new service charge is not related to

as yet unspecified damage caused by the loss of international call records, still under investigation.

According to Waleid Al Bahr, the director of the ministry's local network office, no blame has been apportioned for the fault which could cost the ministry hundreds of thousands of dinars.

Responsibility

The ministry has sent the relevant technical details to the equipment manufacturers L.M. Ericson from Sweden and is awaiting comments from software programme designers which could throw more light on the extent of the damage and

those responsible, he said.

Sources said a fault occurred in the semi-electronic international exchange in 1981 resulted in a financial loss of about KD400,000. The ministry bore the cost of the damage.

Another source indicated that the recent fault occurred in another, digital, exchange completed in 1985. Both were equipped by L.M. Ericson. The Swedish company has a maintenance support contract with the ministry.

The company representative in Kuwait told Arab Times that in the four years of service this is the first time records were lost in the digital exchange.

Bahr insisted that the ministry's main

concern is to identify the fault and make sure it does not happen again. "We are not trying to find someone to blame. But if there is someone responsible for this fault the ministry will hopefully take action" he said.

Bahr refrained from speculating on the number of calls lost and the resulting damage but unconfirmed reports said records for more than 500,000 international calls made last month had been lost. The fault was first discovered on July 19.

An internal ministry report is now being studied by a follow-up committee whose work may extend into September, Bahr said.

Student visas to US need guarantee

By Farhima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

STUDENTS who cannot prove their intention to return do not get visas for higher studies in the US.

The US embassy in Kuwait has rejected several applications, mainly from Indian sub-continent nationals, who could not guarantee they would not settle down in the US.

"We don't know what sort of guarantee they want: they just tell us to show some proof that we'll not settle in the US," said a rejected student.

Embassy officials did not give the numbers rejected but said they needed "Something (from students) to indicate to us that they have some place to go after studies."

Some students who produced job guarantees got visas, some students said.

Kuwait's stringent residence law, changed to meet the country's manpower needs, is another reason why the US embassy is reluctant to issue student visas to non-Kuwaitis.

Obviously, Kuwaitisation, and the changing residence rules, make it difficult for them (students) to return to Kuwait, officials said.

Inappropriate students on dependent visas going overseas for higher studies are eligible to get permission to overseas. Dependents above 21 must get independent work permits to re-enter Kuwait.

A US diplomat insisted that the student visa rules have not changed but admitted that the policy of Kuwaitisation is taken into consideration while issuing student visas.

Eighteen-year-old Mohammad Khawar Hasnain said "Now, I'm stuck. I'll miss one semester. Time is something I can't buy back."

Hasnain, a student of the Universal American School, Kuwait, was planning to do a six-year MBA studies programme and had secured admission and the 20 form a pre-requisite for applying for a student visa.

They didn't specify what guarantee they wanted; I was asked to give them some reason to believe that I won't be staying in the US.

"My father has been working in Kuwait, he won't stay here for ever, and I won't come back to Kuwait. I'll return to Pakistan," he said.

"I selected a university in Louisiana, a secure place without a lot of activity. If I had planned to stay there, I could have opted for New York," he added.

Other students, like Arshad Jannah are looking at other avenues for further education in such countries like Canada.

Arshad Jannah is the peak season for student visa applications. Many students consider an education in the US as a passport to a prosperous career, and as a result, the numbers seeking admission also rises each year.

In 1986, the US embassy issued a total of 1,324 student visas and in 1987, 1,720 visas were issued.

From April to September, 88, a total of 1,308 visas were issued. Of these 569 applicants were Kuwaitis.

From October 1988 to March 89, 1,132 visas were issued, including 646 to Kuwaitis. This is considered to be the off-peak season.

Latest statistics from April ward this year are not available.



A hawker at the Friday market selling second hand television and video sets.

Souq haraj still in demand

Prices adequate

THE Friday market or in another word the souq haraj is one of the popular markets visited by many different nationalities living in the country. It is well-known to the public that this market was closed in 1983 due to lack of organisation and negligence. However, after Kuwait Municipality organised the market and assigned places to stalls, a local daily conducted a number of interviews with stall owners to obtain their viewpoints.

Jaber Abdullah said that there are many problems which they face because sales are not as satisfactory and it is hard to cover expenses. He called upon market officials to cut down stall rents pointing out that the market is well organised and the government is to be praised. He pointed out that the market is short of electric lights and said that many stalls owners were subjected to thefts.

Cleaning

Mhanna Ahmad said that the market is visited by different nationalities and is well organised. He thanked Kuwait Municipality for their efforts in making the Friday market location more presentable for visitors and specially for regularly cleaning the market twice daily.

He added that he pays KD7 for renting the stall and that sales are good these days due to the fact that they sell more suitcases during the travelling season. He said that he has never faced any incidents of theft during his stay in the Friday Market.

Glittering opening for Saudi show in US

WASHINGTON, July 29, (KUNA): With pomp and much publicity and in the presence of Washington's top dignitaries, US Vice President Dan Quayle and Saudi Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz last night officially inaugurated the much-acclaimed Saudi exhibition, "Saudi Arabia: Yesterday and Today," which will tour the United States for the coming year.

More than 450 dignitaries, including most of President Bush's cabinet members, top government officials, members of congress, Arab and foreign diplomats were at hand for the opening ceremony at Washington's Convention centre in the heart of the American capital.

And to mark the occasion, the mayor of the city of Washington Marion Barry declared that July 28 of each year will be declared Saudi Arabian Day in the capital to mark the occasion and to reflect the warm relationship between the US and Saudi Arabia.

Prince Salman and Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar Bin Sultan greeted the dignitaries who flooded the convention centre as hundreds of newsmen, photographers, and television crews recorded the ceremony.

The two Saudi officials led Quayle, his wife, and other top officials, including White House Chief of Staff John Sununu for a private tour of the exhibit, which includes a fully-equipped tent, the huge gold doors to the Islamic Kaaba Mosque and a life-size recreation of a souk, the marketplace, where Quayle was presented with a pair of hand-crafted sandals.

The entourage stepped into the 21st century to greet Prince Sultan Al Saud, son of Prince Salman and the young fighter pilot who had once joined the crew of the space Shuttle Discovery. The Saudi astronaut was joined by American astronauts Buzz Aldrin and fellow crew member John Fabian.

The guests then settled for the traditional Saudi banquet and traditional speeches.

"Though much is different about our cultures, the mutual values shared by our people are remarkably similar," said Prince Salman. "Faith in God, love of family, freedom of work, moderation, and stability in the field of international relations and the promotion of free enterprise — all of these have reinforced the special ties and sound friendship between our two countries."

Quayle responded with praise for the "magnificent" exhibition, for King Fahd, for Saudi Arabia, and for the "shared values" between the two countries.

KAC named most reliable airline in UK

LONDON, July 29, (KUNA): As the misery suffered by many people in the UK on planes, trains and vehicles continued, Kuwait Airways has been named the best reliable airline running services between London's Heathrow Airport and New York.

The Daily Mail published a list of the best and worst airlines in terms of number of flights, punctual timing and service.

Kuwait Airways came on top of the list, the paper pointed out, quoting a survey by the British Civil Aviation Authority.

It noted that a third of all flights are more than 15 minutes late.

The study indicated that the delays are getting worse and worst hit are planes bound for Europe.

The most unpunctual in general was British-Island Airways, a small British charter airline based at Gatwick Airport, the survey said.

The worst airline in the link between London and New York turned out to be Air India.

Train and tube services in Britain had been hit by weekly strikes for more than two months now, leading to travel chaos on the roads as well.

KTV under fire for sub-standard serials

KUWAIT TELEVISION authorities are currently carrying out a detailed study on the satellite stations being received in Kuwait through the use of special satellite dishes. Director of Kuwait TV Programmes Ibrahim Al Mudaf announced that the minister of information has ordered the study which will be completed within the next few weeks.

Gathering place

Another man who interrupted Sarhan said that such places (cafes) are very popular for labourers who are far away from their families. The man who introduced himself as Abdurrahman Oweis said that he was here for the past 12 years as a builder. He added that the cafe is very important to him and his colleagues to meet and check on their daily matters. This cafe to them is considered a smaller system of a union.

A fifty-year-old worker, Tawfeeq Mohamed said that this is the best gathering place for workers, where they discuss jobs and exchange information about new job opportunities. Mohamed added that a single person in Kuwait is not allowed to enter clubs or other public facilities unless accompanied by families and workers have now come to realise that these cafes are the most suitable. There, they can sit freely until late hours at night, smoke bubble-bubble or chat with friends.

Mohamed said that he is a regular visitor, and the oldest among his colleagues. The cafe provides him with the opportunity of offering help to new workers arriving for the first time to the country.

The viewers claimed that over 70 percent of the material shown on Programme One is of sub-standard Egyptian productions, especially the serials that follow the main evening news at 9.

Mudaf said that KTV is carrying out a poll among viewers in order to see what are the most preferred programmes and their timings.

He said that the Cine Club will be restored during the October session and a number of selected

Kuwaiti free trade zone plan: Ghanim

Dogs to help combat smuggling

Arab Times, SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1989

7

smugglers, the official said.

Ghanim said that the Customs Department has uncovered many smuggling and fraud operations, particularly by a number of merchants who changed the country of origin of the imported goods. He admitted that there is a problem in dealing with such fraud cases, adding that this requires efficient customs men. He added that the department co-operates in this respect with the Interior Ministry and the Customs Departments in other GCC states. Such fraudulent merchants are always subjected to fines and their imports are returned back.

He revealed that the Customs Department is planning to introduce the service of police dogs to help in the fight against smugglers. The use of such dogs has proved very successful in some European countries, the official said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese return

KUWAIT, July 29, (KUNA): A number of 11 Lebanese wounded Sunday returned home after receiving treatment in Kuwaiti hospitals.

Sources at the Public Health Ministry here expected that another 3 Lebanese wounded from East Beirut will return on Tuesday via Larnaca.

Kuwait brought 71 Lebanese wounded in the last two months by sending two private planes to each of Damascus and Larnaca to transport them for treatment in Kuwaiti hospitals.

ASCA discussions

KUWAIT, July 29, (KUNA): The examination supervisory board of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) has concluded its discussions in Riyadh.

Discussions during the meetings which concluded yesterday centred on the final plan and arrangements for conducting level one of the qualifying exams for the title "Arab Certified Accountant" which will be held on November 28, 1989.

Chairman of ASCA Talal Abu Ghazala said that in view of the tremendous appeal across the whole of the Arab nation the examination supervisory board has decided to extend the closing date for receipt of applications to August 31, 1989.

Kuwaiti monument

ABU DHABI, July 29, (KUNA): Construction of a big monument for Kuwait Sharjah Emirate will be completed next October and the inauguration ceremony will be held on Kuwait's 29th National Day anniversary, marked on February 25, 1990.

Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait embassy in the United Arab Emirates Adel Mohammed Abdul Ghani told Kuwait News Agency here today that this monument represents Kuwait's past and present.

He noted that the monument comes as an expression of affection of the people of Sharjah and their ruler Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, who ordered the building of the monument, for Kuwait.

Communications

KUWAIT, July 29, (KUNA): Communications Minister Abdulla Al Sharhan today chaired a meeting of the Higher Planning Committee that discussed a wide range of issues, chiefly the Kuwait-Bahrain sea cable.

The meeting, attended by senior officials of the ministry, also examined telephone services for chalets and looked into a study on rationalisation expenditure.

Stabbed to death

KUWAIT, July 29, (KUNA): Police have arrested a Jordanian national, Monadel M., and charged him with the stabbing to death of Hassan M. Palestinian, in the Jawaher area. Interior Ministry sources said today.

A statement said police officials have started interrogating the accused, who stabbed his victim several times with a knife, till he lost his life.

The Jawaher area is home of hundreds of animal-raising barns.

Co-op meeting

CAIRO, July 29, (KUNA): The Secretariat-General of the Union of Arab Co-operative Societies, chaired by the union's Secretary-General, Hesham Tawfiq ended meetings here today.

During the three-day conference, the representatives of a number of Arab states including Kuwait, discussed amending the union's by-laws according to its board of directors 8th session decision last April.

Kuwait's representative Barrak Nasser Al Nour told KUNA that the amendment was discussed to cope with the union's development in different fields.

GCC real estate

RIYADH, July 29, (KUNA): A technical committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council will hold a meeting in Riyadh tomorrow to study, evaluate and organise ownership of real estate by citizens of the GCC states, which was approved by its supreme council during its fifth session held in Kuwait.

The meeting, to be attended by a number of experts from minister of finance and justice of the GCC states, will deal with the council's five year experience in this connection and its benefits to the GCC citizens.

KPTC planning marine route to Kheiran

By Jarmal Amin

KUWAIT Public Transport Corporation (KPTC) is currently studying a plan to start a new marine route from Salma to Kheiran Resort. Chairman for Technical Marine Affairs at KPTC, Bader Najar said that the study will be completed within the next few months. The new plan will offer a one day return package to passengers and the full day at Kheiran Resort.

and return. He stressed that the charges will be nominal.

He announced that the KPTC has no plans to reduce its manpower, adding that as the company is expanding and adding new projects, it will still need more technical and administrative manpower. Najar said that the KPTC keeps strict supervision and inspection over its buses on all routes and that some inspections are sudden in order to ensure smooth service to the public.

Periodical maintenance and checkups are mandatory to ensure the safety of passengers using KPTC buses.

Najar said that the KPTC covers all employees and passengers with comprehensive insurance and life insurance. He announced that the company has plans to expand its marine transportation services. Studies are under way to examine the possibility of extending the marine transportation service to Bahrain

and Basra and these plans will be implemented after the necessary studies are completed. He said that the KPTC workshops also undertake some maintenance contracts for other institutions.

KPTC will sign a contract in the next few days with Kuwait Municipality to carry out maintenance of over 110 heavy machinery. The contract value is over KD1 million. A number of other contracts with a number of ministries and public

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE borrower is a servant to the lender — *The Bible*.

Reshuffle blows up in Maggie's hands

Seamy details leak out

PRIME Minister Margaret Thatcher's radical cabinet reshuffle this week — designed to polish her Conservative government's image in the face of sagging opinion polls — has instead resulted in further damage to its credibility and bruised egos on all sides.

There was nothing unprecedented in moving the seasoned elder statesman Geoffrey Howe from the Foreign Office to a new job as deputy prime minister and party leader in Parliament: Lord Peter Carrington, Thatcher's first and most famous foreign secretary, and Howe's predecessor, Francis Pym, have long since departed the Foreign Office.

But the heavy-handed way in which she handled her cabinet staff during the day-long series of meetings Monday was more like a boss in a company boardroom than a prime minister who recently marked 10 years in office.

The seamy details have leaked into print, radio and television, backfiring on Thatcher so seriously that some analysts believe it could be the first signal of her impending downfall in the next election.

The soft-spoken Howe, 62, consistently loyal to Thatcher, had to be surprised at his removal after having been assured his job was safe. Just as surprised was Home Secretary Douglas Hurd when reporters told him — after a briefing at Thatcher's 10 Downing Street official residence — that Thatcher had offered Hurd's job to Howe.

British newspapers were almost unanimous in reporting that Thatcher had botched the handling of the reshuffle, giving heavy play to leaked reports of the bargaining over Hurd's job.

"Margaret Thatcher's reshuffle has blown up in her own hands," said Peter Jenkins, one of Britain's most respected political commentators, in the *Independent*.

The *Guardian* said that Howe "has now suffered the deepest humiliation, having his job whacked from under him."

The *Daily Telegraph* said the revelations of how Sir Geoffrey was removed "had taken the shine off a series of moves intended to improve the government's image."

"In what came close to an apology," the *Telegraph* added, Thatcher "gave instructions for a message to the Home Office yesterday reaffirming her 'great confidence' in Hurd."

Several Conservative politicians, outraged that details of Monday's bargaining at 10 Downing St had leaked out, called for changes in Thatcher's press department.

The uproar has also taken the blush off the praise that Thatcher received for compromising with the 12 European Economic Community leaders at a summit meeting in Madrid. Newspapers attributed Howe's rebuff largely to the fact he had pressed Thatcher into the conciliatory stance on European Economic and Monetary Union at the meeting against her will.

Press commentators are also questioning Thatcher's choice of John Major, at 46 a virtually unknown junior treasury minister, to replace Howe in a job he will have to learn from scratch.

World statesmen will have to wait until Sunday to find out more about Major when he attends the Cambodia conference in Paris on his first foreign assignment.

A Thatcher spokesman told United Press International that the prime minister feels the controversy had been "over-hyped" in the press.

"An awful lot of comment and views are being thrown around. The prime minister now has the government she wants as she intended," he said.

Asked what might be done to limit the damage, he said: "We won't go into detail about anything that went on between her and her colleagues. We can't be drawn into speculation and intrigue. A lot of this has been over-hyped by the media."

Yet the damage has been done and most commentators feel Thatcher has undermined the credibility of her own newly appointed lieutenants and discredited her government at a time it is faring badly in opinion polls.

Hurd and Howe, so far, have refrained from publicly debating the reshuffle, and Major too has steered clear from any pronouncements.

PRESS REVIEW

Al Watan: A Kuwaiti newspaper commented editorially on the recent talks held between Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Palestinian figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Al Watan daily said that the meeting between Shamir and the Palestinian lawyer Jamil Al Tarifi has been a meeting between the oppressor and the oppressed.

What is important about this meeting for Israel, the paper said, is that it represents an attempt to look for an alternative to the PLO in the hope of creating a Palestinian leadership that is not connected with the PLO.

For the PLO, the paper added, the meeting demonstrates that no such encounters can be held without its knowledge and consent, and this, it "forced" Israel to engage in indirect negotiations with it.

The paper expressed belief that Israel is betting on ending the Palestinian uprising before imposing its agenda for negotiations that aim to prolong its occupation.

The paper concluded by asserting that this Israeli position is certain to fail because the Palestinian uprising is continuing and only this uprising will be able to end the occupation and achieve the independence of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (KUNA)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1646 — French troops aided by Swedish Army invade Bavaria.

1709 — British forces under Duke of Marlborough and Savoy's Prince Eugene defeat French at Tournai in Belgium.

1870 — Austria revokes Concordat with papacy after decree of papal infallibility.

1907 — Elections are held in Philippines for the first assembly.

1916 — German saboteurs blow up munitions plant on Black Tom Island, near Jersey City, New Jersey, prior to US entry in World War I.

1922 — Nationalist forces capture Tipperary in Ireland from rebels.

1930 — Kurds stage uprising on Persian-Turkish frontier.

1948 — Hungarian leader Zoltan Tildy is forced to resign; Amnesty is proclaimed in Philippines for Huk rebels but they refuse to comply.

1953 — Britain signs alliance with Libya.

1971 — US Apollo 15 astronauts David R. Scott and James B. Irwin land on Moon.

1972 — Soviet Union's Navy says it can detect and destroy enemy vessel anywhere in the world.

1974 — Greece, Turkey and Britain sign declaration for ceasefire agreement on Cyprus.

1976 — It is reported that at least 100,000 people have perished in earthquake in northeastern China that shattered the city of Dangsha (Tangshan).

1977 — Syrian soldiers of Arab League's peacekeeping force in Lebanon set up gun positions around two main Palestinian refugee camps to help control commandos.

1987 — Three thousand Indian peacekeeping troops land in rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula in Sri Lanka to make certain Tamil rebels abide by Indian-mediated peace accord.

1988 — Bomb explodes at busy shopping plaza outside Johannesburg, South Africa, injuring at least 57 people.



Marziyeh Dabbagh: "I'm a woman of all trades."

Sisterhood of chadors

Iranian women optimistic about future

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

"ALL faces are beautiful; some faces may be prettier than others, but without make-up, all faces look alike. No one is very pretty, no one very ugly," asserts a 23-year-old Iranian woman, we met during one of the lunches in the dining room of the Engelab Hotel in Tehran.

There is some truth in her words. In the chador, all Iranian women look like black dots, differing only in shape and size, growing taller or shorter, larger or smaller, depending on the height and weight of the person. Nearly all women are slim and petite, faces adorned with sharp Persian features. Even without lipstick, they have luscious pink lips. And their expressive doe-eyes emit friendliness.

Most eyes tell a story, like Marziyeh's eyes, glowing fiercely with pride or mellowing as memories remind her of some incident left far behind in time. Her eyes flare up occasionally as she narrates tales of torture she endured during the Pahlavi regime.

Marziyeh Hadidchi Dabbagh is the deputy secretary-general of the Women's Society of Iran. A robust person, her eyes sparkle with mirth as she says: "I'm a woman of all trades."

With more than 500 women under her care, she acted as nurse and caretaker to the cantankerous lot, catering to almost all their needs, from organising bazaar trips to sending them to hospital.

Intrigued, many journalists asked for an interview. She granted one — at midnight, the only time "I am free." She shut her weary eyes and rolled up on the sofa to narrate her story.

One by one, she opened some pages of her life. Organising the Congress must have been a piece of cake for Marziyeh, who was one of the most politically active women in the Shah's regime. Marziyeh's arrest and subsequent torture by the dreaded SAVAK is now a legend among the women of Iran, who look up to her.

Ordeal

She survived the ordeal. "They (SAVAK) wanted to break me," she said, showing burn marks on her body. Apparently she was tortured with cigarettes and other tools. They could not, even though they employed emotional blackmail, by torturing her 12-year-old daughter in front of her. Her daughter, she said, holds no grudge against her for her ordeal. All that has emerged into memories that sustain the revolution.

Marziyeh was imprisoned for a total of four and a half years, before breaking jail and escaping to her underground shelters in such countries as Lebanon, Syria, France and the UK. She'd rather not talk about her exile. "It's all in the past."

Her childhood memories are still clear in her mind. "I was a mischievous child, and a restless soul," she said.

Marziyeh was born in Hamadan, she admits to being "never submissive," she behaved like a boy, raising many eyebrows. Her adventurous days were over at the age of seven. She was brought up on strict Islamic teachings and moral codes, which became ingrained in her.

At 13, she got married and moved to Tehran. "I did not know my husband, but anyway I looked forward to marriage," she said. She liked the idea of living in Tehran.

Her husband, an accountant, believed in monogamy. "He told me, I love only one God. And I want only one wife," she said.

She mothered seven children, including five

daughters. Her arrival in Tehran in the early 1960s transformed her life. She became a political activist.

Appalled with the immorality she saw in Tehran, men and women drinking and gambling, she knew she had to do something. "I didn't know what I could do. Women had become chattels; I could not stand the low morals. Everything shocked me," she recalls.

"While Farah Deba (Shah's wife) bathed in milk, thousands of children starved in the villages. It was a desperate situation," she adds.

She didn't quite know what to do, so she took up Islamic studies at a nearby mosque, where she met some members of an opposition group, which wanted to oust the Shah, led by Dr Sayeed, an Islamic scholar. She joined the group. Thus began her political career in 1967. She was 26.

After the massacre of 15,000 demonstrators in Tehran, she became actively involved in politics. Half of those killed were thrown into a salt lake, the rest were buried in a mass grave. Her son also died, protesting the Shah's rule.

Dr Sayeed was killed in 1968. At that time, Khomeini's views impressed her and became an ardent follower.

In exile she "served the imam" in France. She returned to Iran with Khomeini.

The years in exile are fuzzy in her memory. Her single task was to serve Khomeini, and carry on the message of Islam.

"I'll continue my struggle for Islam to the last drop of blood in my body," she asserts.

During the sisters' mobilisation programme, started 10 months after the republic was formed, she took military training. Later she trained women "to prepare them to go to war in case their services were needed."

Photographs of soldiers during combat training are common place. Marziyeh's photographs, wielding a gun and lying flat on the desert sands seemed a trifle strange. She trained, wearing a chador. No, no, she never felt discomfort, but she did enjoy the power of holding a gun.

She doesn't delve deeply into the years she trained, or the period she trained other women. Those days are a closely guarded secret.

Complaints

She now heads a parliamentary committee that looks into complaints against "ministers, heads of states and department heads at ministries." From men? "Both men and women." I examine the complaints against everyone and listen to everyone," she said.

Mrs Dabbagh, as she is known among other Iranian women, blends into the sisterhood of chadors. Yet, in her own way, she stands out as an outstanding example of courageous womanhood.

"All Iranian women have a good future; they have freed themselves while the women in Third World countries are still fighting for basic freedom from a traditional role," she said. "We (Iranian women) are free, free," she insists.

Except, of course, to hold political jobs. "A woman can never become president of Iran," asserts Marziyeh.

"Most women squirm at the sight of blood; they are not suited to become head of state," she said.

Marziyeh didn't. "I'm an exception to the rule; not the rule," she said.

She predicts a rosy picture for the women of her country.

It may be cumbersome in the sweltering summer heat, but the black chador, in no way restricts the freedom of women in Iran. "Their freedom surprises me," said a Pakistani journalist, who feels that the purdah (veil) binds women in the sub-continent. "Look at them, they can do anything they like," she said.

Iranian women are bold, brash, brazen and outspoken, making their presence felt, be it at the bus stop or in the office.

Literacy among women is estimated to be high, about 55 to 60 per cent, said Efat, a liaison officer and director of the department in the Education Ministry. Her job is to oversee the standard of education to continually upgrade teacher training.

How do you deal with men? She lowers her eyes and says: "Like this; we have no communication gaps." Her ministry also holds adult-literacy classes and encourages education among both girls and boys.

Chador

Draped in her black chador, 18-year-old Sepideh looks rather inconspicuous in a crowd. On a one-to-one basis, she comes alive, bubbling with vigour. She is studying to become a Persian-English translator.

Speaking in a fluent American accent, she lived in the US until 1979; she outlines her future plans. Too young to even consider marriage, she talks of a career. "First things first, I'll study English, and said. Naturally! Sepideh is the face of the future.

"Most mothers want their daughters wed by the age of 20. At 24, she is considered an old maiden," explains Mina.

"I want him to be educated; my mother wants him to be rich," she said, commenting on what she wants in her husband. At 31, she is unmarried, because she could not find the right man.

Afsaneh married the man of her dreams six months ago. She was introduced to her husband by "friends of the family."

"We talked to each other before marriage," she said. Did you talk to him in the presence of elders? "No, I was shy before others; we discussed many things and found we shared several likes and dislikes," she said. Her marriage was organised by her parents.

Afsaneh was taken aback by the suggestion that she should wear a pink or a green chador to match her dress. She becomes reflective. "I would like to wear a pink chador, but everyone would laugh at me; moreover it is now a tradition to wear black."

"Black is more formal," explains Afsaneh. "Any other colour would get dirty," adds Mina.

"If we have guests, we wear a light colour chador, that's informal. On the streets, we prefer black," Mina said.

Do you ever want to take off the chador? Most women change the topic of discussion.

On the streets of Tehran's affluent northern suburb, we can see some women driving to the bazaar. It seems there has been some relaxation. With sunglasses, wearing lipstick and nail polish women stroll down the bustling central bazaar streets. Jeans and Westernised clothes are common among the affluent Tehranis. "It's more relaxed now," said one woman, pointing out to a woman wearing a colourful scarf, thrown carelessly over her shoulders, showing a lock of blonde hair; blue jeans sticking out from under the roushous (overcoat). Her face looks prettier than the rest.

The Kabul government says it has set up "guest houses" in 24 of the country's 30 provinces to provide temporary housing for returning refugees until they can be transported by land or air back to their provinces.

Paigir says Kabul has spent two billion Afghanis (\$38 million) on aid for the returnees, but desperately needs foreign assistance for those yet to return.

The problems don't end once the refugees are back.

According to Afghan custom, a man whose younger brother has died should marry his sibling's widow. Relief workers say the war has brought a tragic twist to this ancient tradition.

Families often give up for dead men who have joined the mujahideen or fled as refugees, only to have the husbands return and find their women.

One relief worker said the younger man in this situation often killed himself, or his wife and brother.

Life in refugee camps has left many Afghans socially and economically handicapped by wrenching them from their traditional livelihoods. Many of the children have known only war and have not learned their parents' trades.

"You have now an entire generation that has from one day to the other been cut from their roots," said Witschi Cestari.

The Kabul government says it is offering financial assistance, as well as emergency food supplies, land, seed and fertiliser to help returning refugees get back on their feet.

Afghan President Najibullah says Islamabad, by continuing to back the mujahideen, has broken its Geneva accord promise to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

The Pakistani side ... creates obstacles for the voluntary return of the Afghan refugees, but the Afghan

جولان

Landslide victory for Rafsanjani

Constitutional amendments approved

TEHRAN, July 29, (AP): The powerful Parliament Speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, secured today a landslide victory in Iran's presidential elections according to early election results released by the Islamic Republic News Agency.

IRNA also said that 97 per cent of the voters approved constitutional amendments in a referendum held alongside the presidential elections, also according to preliminary results.

It said Rafsanjani, 54, received eight million of a total number of 8.5 million people. IRNA said.

Iran's main opposition group, Mujahedeen Khalq, said in its statement released at its headquarters in Baghdad that the turnout at the election was very poor.

It said that at the Imam Hussein polling stations in Tehran, for example, 5,000 voters were expected to cast their ballots, but only 1,000 showed up.

It said the Interior Ministry declined to prolong voting hours, not because of the influx of people, but in the hope that more voters would be persuaded to cast their ballots.

Reporters said the turnout was sluggish yesterday morning, but picked up later in the day.

"The way they have been urging people to get out and vote has been very desperate," a Mujahedeen spokesman said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press in Nicosia.

A statement by the group claimed that at polling stations in Ghani Abed and Shahr-e-Ray in south Tehran, the fundamentalist Revolutionary Guards watched voters closely. They beat up some and arrested others who tried to vote against constitutional amendments.

Rafsanjani's victory had been a foregone conclusion, but the number of votes he received reflected support even stronger than expected.

"Iranians overwhelmingly vote for Rafsanjani," read the headline of IRNA's urgent dispatch on the early results.

It said in English that although Rafsanjani had been expected to win, "the massive victory will give greater confidence to his administration."

Sheibani, 58, a candidate in the 1981 presidential race, was a student activist against Iran's previous ruler, the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, in the 1940s. He spent 13 years in prison before Khomeini's Islamic revolution toppled the monarchy in 1979.

Public opinion polls published earlier this year had predicted 86 per cent of the votes for Rafsanjani and 11 per cent for his opponent.

IRNA said Rafsanjani's victory was hailed by all newspapers which went by results from a few constituencies released at 2.30 am (2300 GMT).

The newspapers, added IRNA, published pictures of the white-turbaned, mustachioed clergymen smiling happily as he cast his ballot yesterday.

In Qom, the central religious city and seat of the country's leading theologians, 216,000 of the 227,000 votes were for Rafsanjani, IRNA said.

A Jordanian newspaper expressed hope today that the new Iranian leadership would heed Arab and international efforts to restore permanent peace to the Gulf.

In dealing with Iran remains the best option for winning the release of nine US hostages held in Lebanon, but the United States must not rule out talking to the captors or paying ransom, according to a study on terrorism released.

A Jordanian newspaper expressed hope today that the new Iranian leadership would heed Arab and international efforts to restore permanent peace to the Gulf.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today condemned the kidnapping and asked that they be returned to Lebanon.

The secretary-general explores this action which constitutes a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and can only increase tension in an already explosive area," his spokesman said in a statement.

Iran today decried what it termed the world's deadly silence in the face of Israel's abduction of a Muslim leader from Lebanon.

Tehran Radio quoted Prime Minister Hossein Mousavi as saying the kidnap of Obeid "will definitely heighten the just struggle of Lebanon's Muslims against Israel and their Phalangist allies."

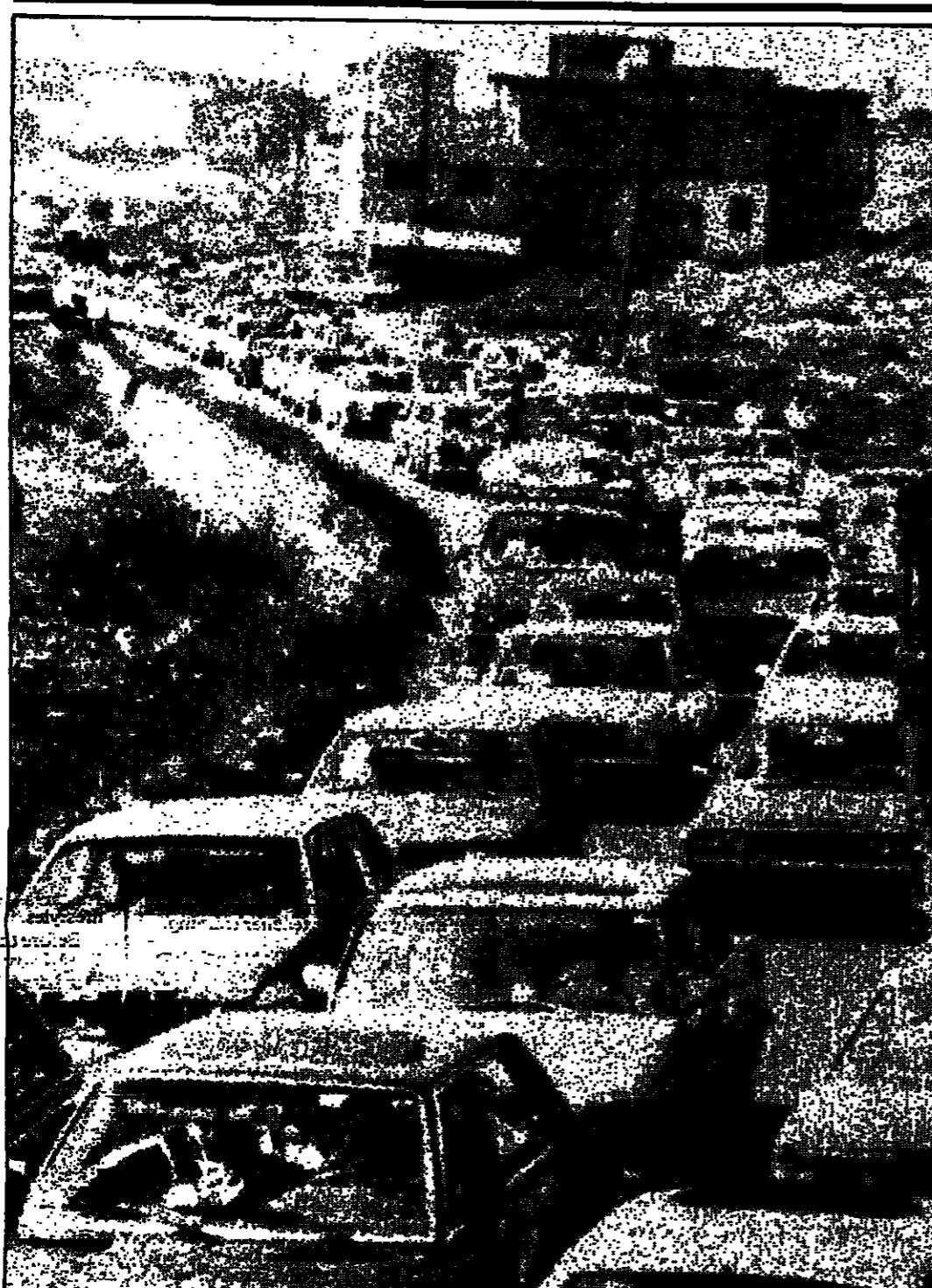
The Israeli Army today warned Hezbollah militia against arming hostiles in retaliation for Israel's seizure of its leader.

stations closed.

That meant that the middle-aged cleric, who has emerged as Iran's strongest since the death of Ayatollah Khomeini on June 3, has gathered 94 per cent of the votes in 124 constituencies.

The preliminary results excluded votes cast in Tehran, a city of seven million people, IRNA said.

Rafsanjani's only challenger in the election was Abass Sheibani, a Parliament deputy from Tehran who does not have a national political power base.



Refugees trail

Lebanese families, escaping savage artillery bombardment that hit Beirut, cram into cars with their portable belongings and head to southern Lebanon today to join relatives or other refugees who took refuge in schools and tents. (Reuter wirephoto)

Beirut amid carnage

Hundreds flee ghost city

BEIRUT, July 29. (Agencies): A stream of cars packed with personal belongings choked the coastal highway out of Beirut today as Lebanese fled the carnage that has turned their capital into a ghost city.

Wide-eyed children sat on the backs of pick-ups which jammed the highway alongside cars with mattresses strapped to their roofs — televisions, radios, clothing and food filled virtually every nook.

A lull after three nights of relentless artillery duels between Syrian gunners and mainly Christian troops allowed hundreds to flee the city after apparently giving up hope that Arab peace makers could end the fighting.

According to some estimates up to three-quarters of Beirut's one million people have left the city since mid-March after fighting erupted when Christian army commander Major-General Michel Aoun vowed to drive Syria's 40,000 troops out of Lebanon.

One person died and 30 were wounded overnight bringing to 40 the number of people killed and the wounded toll to 180 in the past three days.

Thousands of Lebanese have already moved from Beirut to the relative safety of south Lebanon where they are living in tents, schools and with relatives.

Others have fled to Syria and Cyprus.

Many Lebanese said they had little hope that an Arab League foreign ministers' committee

scheduled for today in the Moroccan capital Rabat would relieve their suffering.

People remaining in Beirut took advantage of the morning lull to sweep away broken glass and rubble caused by the night shelling and to buy food.

Police said eight people were killed and 42 wounded in overnight and early morning exchanges across the divided capital, where 1.5 million people lived when the current round of violence broke out March 8.

The latest casualties raised the overall toll to 502 killed and 2,056 wounded in the 19-week confrontation between Christian Army commander Gen Michel Aoun's troops and Syrian forces.

A police spokesman said that only 250,000 people remained in the city after more than four months of almost daily artillery duels.

The fighting erupted after Aoun imposed a naval blockade on illegal ports run by Muslim militias south of Beirut in an effort to recover around \$100 million annually in lost customs revenues.

The Syrians joined the Muslim militias shelling the Christian enclave north of Beirut in retaliation and blocked its land entrances, trapping around one million people there.

The Syrians, who consider Lebanon within their sphere of influence, keep around 400,000 troops in predominantly Muslim areas under a 1976 Arab League mandate to end the civil war, now in its 15th year.

Bashir tightens grip over country

KHARTOUM, July 29. (Reuter): Sudan's military junta has formally tightened its grip over all affairs of state a month after toppling the civilian government.

The 15-member junta, headed by coup leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, issued a decree granting the next head of state overwhelming powers. Bashir, already prime minister, defence minister and commander-in-chief, is the obvious candidate.

The decree gives the head of state authority to declare war, impose a state of emergency and supervise the work of the judiciary, the offices of the attorney-general and the auditor-general, the official Sudan News Agency said today. He would have authority over the civil service.

Bashir, an obscure brigadier until he ousted Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi's government on June 30, has already imposed a state of emergency, suspended the constitution, dissolved parliament, political parties and trade unions and closed down the press.

Under the same decree, the junta is given a supervisory role over the 21-man civilian cabinet appointed on July 9 to run day-to-day affairs.

Sudan's former head of state, Ahmed Ali Al Mirghani, was on holiday in Crete when Bashir, 45, seized power and is now reported to be seeking political asylum in Cairo.

Mirghani was chairman of the five-man supreme council, a joint presidency. All other members are in detention following the arrest of Mirghani Al Nasri this week on his return from an official visit to Geneva.

Some 50 other politicians including Mahdi are also in jail. Bashir has said the former prime minister and others may face trial for corruption and a possible death penalty if convicted.

Bashir arrived in Saudi Arabia today on his first visit abroad since the coup, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

It reported he was greeted at the airport by King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, whose country was one of the first to express support for Bashir after the coup.

Bashir today appointed veteran legal expert Galal Ali Lofti as head of the judiciary. He sacked the head of the Civil Aviation Authority, Al-Sir Hassan Bashir, and named retired Army Brigadier Mahgoub Mohamad Mahdi as his replacement.

■ Sudan's military junta said drug dealers could be executed instead of getting the maximum three years in jail drug-related offences previously attracted.

An official decree said people dealing in opium or growing hashish and those who owned, ran or "protected" premises where drugs were being used could receive death penalties, the official Sudan News Agency reported today.

The junta, which seized power on June 30, said people who used opium or hashish would receive punishments of three to seven years in jail.

Sudan, a country of 25 million people, does not have a serious drug problem. The most widely used illicit drug in Sudan is a local brand of hashish called bango.

Baseball match

Saudis deny

RIYADH, July 29. (AP): Saudi Arabia denied a report that Saudi athletes have played Israelis in a baseball match for teenagers in Ramstein, West Germany.

There is no Saudi Arab sports team of that age or any age in West Germany. There is no Saudi player who plays baseball, and it is not a game that is listed among the activities of Saudi sports teams, the official Saudi Press Agency said, quoting an unidentified official of the Saudi Welfare presidency.

On Sunday reports from Ramstein said national teams from Saudi Arabia and Israel played each other in the European Little League baseball tournament, held at the US Air Force Base. They said it was the first time ever that athletes from the two countries met in such a game.

In Washington, a US official said yesterday that the United States plans to tell the Soviet Union at a meeting this weekend in Stockholm, Sweden, that it should use its improving relations with Iran to help free American hostages held in Lebanon.

The meeting in the Swedish capital between a US delegation headed by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly and a Soviet delegation led by Nicolai Kozyrev is part of a series of meetings between the superpowers on regional issues.

The main topics of this weekend's meeting will be the civil war in Afghanistan and the Soviet Union's improving relations with Iran.

After the death of Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, the Soviets agreed to provide arms to Tehran, but the US official said it was not clear whether new weapons would be delivered or spare parts for old Soviet arms.

We think it would be bad for them to start rearming Iran and we wouldn't like to see new military systems delivered, he said.

The US view is that Soviet weapons in Iranian hands would be used to destabilise the Gulf region. The US official said Kelly also would appeal to the Soviets for help in trying to win the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim extremists.

On the subject of Afghanistan, the US official contended the Soviets have increased weapons shipments to the Kabul government to a rate of \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion a year.

Despite an over-all improvement in US-Soviet relations, the Soviets have complained publicly about continued US arms shipments to the Afghan rebels.

They contend that both the United States and Pakistan, which funnels the weapons to the Afghan rebels, are violating the Geneva accords.

Aljubaila, a student, stood outside his uncle's damaged pharmacy as firemen sprayed water on the pavement and said he had no warning of the explosion.

People are killed from this action and I want to stop, he said.

His plea was echoed at nearby Aljubaila hospital, where many of the victims were taken and where bloody stretchers were left in the corridor. Outside the door, a knot of men and women scanned a list of names of the victims.

In Islamabad, meanwhile,

Afghan rebel sources said today a new internal rift threatens the six-month-old self-styled Afghanistani rebel government. The dispute centres on the reported slaughter of 30 rebels by a rival commander.

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PEOPLE

By Ivor Davis

IN the tradition of such Hollywood femmes fatales as Ava Gardner, Barbara Stanwyck, Lauren Bacall and, more recently, Kim Basinger, British actress Joanne Whalley-Kilmer is a knockout.

It is barely after breakfast at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, but the noise is ear-shattering. As two drunks prop up the bar, slot machines clunk incessantly and whoops from around the crowded dice tables echo across the cavernous casino. It's Las Vegas business as usual. To turn heads in such an atmosphere isn't easy, but Whalley-Kilmer, far from her northern English hometown, is managing just that. The jaded denizens of the hotel lift their eyes long enough from the gaming tables to follow her movements as she passes through. It's the ultimate compliment.

And no wonder, for her tiny but well-endowed 5-foot-2-inch figure is encased in a blood-red ankle-length dress, complete with a slit that, it seems, soars higher than Everest. There's lots of cleavage courtesy of a Frederick's of Hollywood lift bra. Her red hair bounces on her bare shoulders as the lady with the 31-inch hips and the 21-inch waist careers through the casino on wobbly silver 6-inch high heels, complete with huge bows, for a scene in her newest movie.

Her character's dress sense, as well as common sense, may be a little off the beaten path, but Whalley-Kilmer's career is humming along nicely, thank you very much. In "Kill Me Again," her first red-blooded Hollywood leading-lady role, she plays Fay Forrester, a gun-wielding dame with two boyfriends panting for her attentions and a mob of revenge-seeking hoodlums hot on her heels. One of the boyfriends is down-on-his-luck private eye Jack Andrews, a second-rate investigator who long ago ran out of luck and now seeks consolation in the bottle and at the gambling tables. Andrews is played by block hunk Val Kilmer, Whalley-Kilmer's husband of just over a year.

Hot

In Hollywood parlance Whalley-Kilmer is hot. She is fresh from her role as the world's most famous party girl Christine Keeler in "Scandal," which is raking in lots of money around the world. "Kill Me Again" is not her first American picture. That honour goes to the fantasy tale "Willow" (1988) — directed by Ron Howard and produced by George Lucas — in which she played a sword-wielding princess opposite the dashing knight played by Kilmer. The movie sank quickly, but sparks flew between the actors and soon after they finished the picture Whalley and her leading man went off to quietly get married.

But this is the first role in which she's

Joanne Whalley-Kilmer follows wherever life takes her

Brit plays pure American white trash



Ian McKellen as John Profumo and Joanne Whalley as Christine Keeler in Scandal.

getting the big Hollywood star treatment, and it's a part she is attacking with great relish.

During a filming break she gratefully gets out of the skintight red dress and slips into a white T-shirt, billowy black cotton pants and cowboy boots. Even with the heavy makeup still in place she looks almost fragile, the antithesis of the Vegas vamp she plays. Tossing back the red

wig she wears as Fay, she perches provocatively on a stool at an empty card table, her huge, innocent brown eyes completely overwhelming her face.

"Fay is a kind of femme fatale by mistake," she explains in a newly husky voice. "She lights up a filter-tip cigarette. 'She's not calculating. She doesn't know what she's doing even when she's shooting people. She's liv-

ing a fantasy ... a little bit like a young girl who dresses up. She's spontaneous, thinks Vegas is fabulous and spends a small fortune on evening dresses, which she insists on wearing at 10 o'clock in the morning. She doesn't really have a handle on reality. And I love her."

She landed the key role against considerable odds. When director John Dahl and producer co-writer David

Warfield began to cast for their leading lady, it appeared Whalley-Kilmer never really had a chance.

They interviewed dozens of American actresses and, Dahl noted, "We all liked Joanne but said, 'No way. She's British and this lady is pure American heartland white trash!'"

But when she showed up for an audition — before she'd Christine

Keeler role — she had polished her American accent and completely won them over.

The best part of playing Fay, Whalley-Kilmer says, was shopping for her outfit.

"The idea behind Fay's clothes is that she always gets something a little bit wrong. She has these nice silver shoes, but they have these grotesque bows on them. She goes a bit too far, if

she had stopped it would have been fine — but she can't."

These days the 27-year-old actress calls America home. She has a house in Santa Fe, N.M., to which she escapes whenever possible.

In Whalley-Kilmer's order of things, people should follow wherever life takes them. "I don't believe in planning too much. You have to be more open, because you never know in this business. Who ever thought I'd be doing *Joey Orton in New York*?"

Before starting "Kill Me Again," Whalley-Kilmer made her acclaimed American stage debut in the *Orton* farce "What The Butler Saw."

Whalley-Kilmer grew up in Stockport, England, where she was obsessed by the movies.

Loved

"We'd go to Saturday and Sunday matinees and I loved it. I used to write little plays and make people do them. As a 12-year-old I did a couple of (acting) jobs, but I stayed on at school until I was 18. I wasn't the typical child actress who graduated into adult parts. But I never seriously considered doing anything else."

She first caught the public's attention in "The Good Father" (1987) opposite Anthony Hopkins. But she really knocked 'em dead in two television parts: the first as Emma Craven, the policeman's daughter who is murdered, in the mini-series "Edge of Darkness," then as Nurse Mills messaging the scaly skinned Michael Gambon in "The Singing Detective."

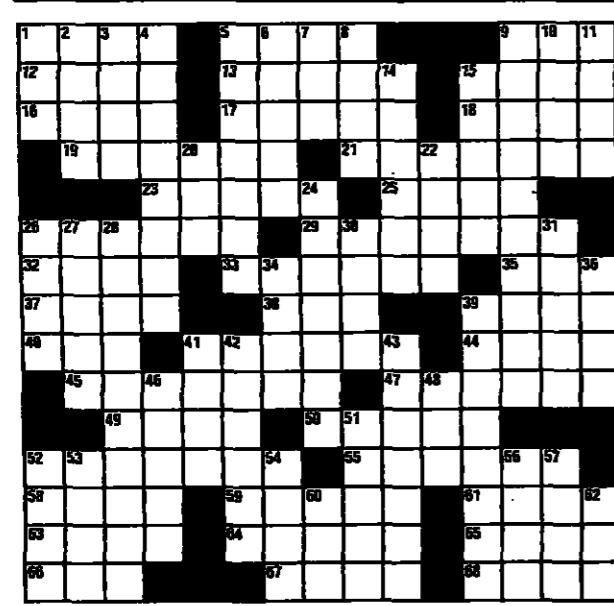
Her Christine Keeler role in "Scandal," chronicling the bittersweet tale of the dancer turned party girl who topped a British government, simply emphasised to American filmmakers who loved her as Nurse Mills that here was an actress to watch.

Surprisingly, Whalley-Kilmer did few interviews at the time for "Scandal," but playing Fay seems to have caused her to re-evaluate the Keeler character.

"There's a similarity between Christine and Fay," says Whalley-Kilmer, "in the fact that both had a naivete about what they were involved in. Christine was able to crack through the upper element of British society. That sounds like a calculated move, but it wasn't. She was more a willing victim of circumstances. Fay decides what she wants to do and goes on doing it without worrying about the circumstances. She steals the mob's money, but doesn't think it through. She thinks if you steal a million dollars they won't come looking for you. It's childlike."

"She and Fay are similar in that they both don't have the practical fears they should have and they don't see things the same as somebody who would have more of a handle on reality. They're not endowed with the good old north of England common sense."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Sagan or Reiner
5 Stage item
9 Geneticist's initials
12 Mattie, Felipe or Jesus
13 Stitched quickly
15 — sea to shining...
16 Conductor's concern
17 Poet's muse
18 Hudson or Reo
19 Plato's land
21 Takes for granted
23 Curl the lip
25 Long, long periods
26 Macaroon ingredient
29 Train
32 Night light
33 Starts a voyage
35 "Today — a man"
37 Chinese fraternal organization
38 Shortening
39 A-F link
40 Pose
41 Really likes
44 Related
45 Fierce
47 Enacted a law
49 Gator's cousin
50 Tugs
52 Leopard's smaller relative
55 One way up
58 German school hall
59 Kind of badge
61 A low tide
63 Pinocchio laydown
64 Leonine group
65 Adventure
66 Conductor de

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
TAME SEEN REDO
AVER TAROT EDEEN
ROAN ERASE PALE
ANTE BELLUMHOMES
ELY PAR
FAMINE CRESTING
AMEND SHIRT NOR
DATE TEEMS OGRE
ETE LEASE EROSE
DISTORTS STATED
ROM SEA
FLOATING PALACES
EARN TIROL PORE
AVEC ENURE EMIR
TALE ABED DOSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ARE YOU A WINNING PAIRS PLAYER?

Neither vulnerable, South deals. spade rebid would have shown an unbalanced hand.

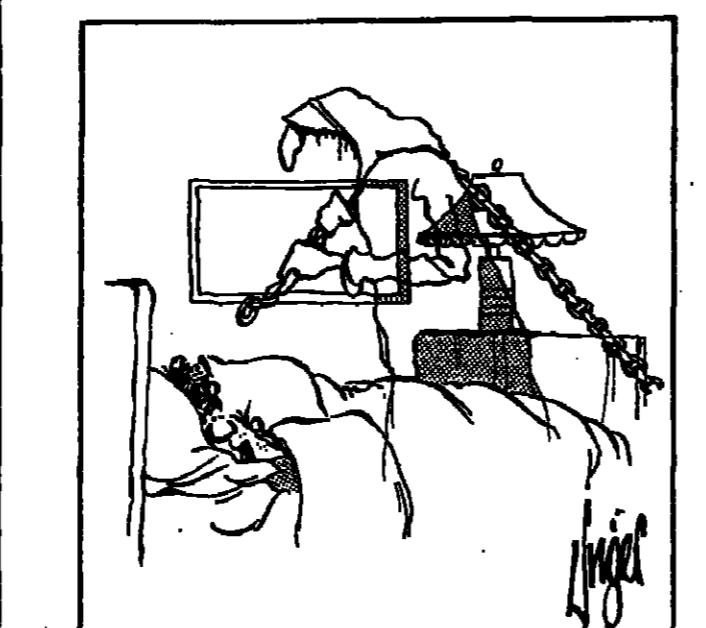
WEST leads the queen of hearts, and there's no point to a hold-up play. You have eight fast winners, and any extra tricks you make will have to come from the spade suit. If you were playing rubber bridge, you would take the safety play of cashing a high spade and then leading to the jack. That nullifies any 4-1 split. Do you make the same play at duplicate?

Chances of a 3-2 split are about 68 percent, and two times in five you will find a doubleton queen, giving you about a 27 percent chance of scoring five tricks in spades. It might seem that, since a 4-1 break will crop up about 28 percent of the time, you should take the safety play.

Opening lead: Queen of \hearts . Do you think you are one of the country's great duplicate stars, just waiting to be discovered? Test yourself by covering up the East-West cards then decide how, after the lead of the queen of hearts, you would play three no trump on this holding, and why.

Your jump bid to two no trump is classic—19 points and a square hand. Note that North had no way to suggest a four-spade contract in standard methods; a new suit or a

pair events.



"Why would anyone rent us a nine-bedroom house for \$200 a month?"

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will grow rather tired of doing something repetitive, but it cannot be avoided. Instead try and do it as quickly as possible and then relax. Make sure your health is not put at risk. Be less contemptuous.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Your children will give you something to be pleased about, but they will also worry you. You should not try to do too many things all at the same time. Try to avoid thinking of work for the day.



Gemini (May 20 - June 21)

You will meet someone very much to your liking, but do not put all your cards on the table yet. Make sure you do not do anything reckless when driving or anywhere else. A friend will thank you for a favour you have done him. Be considerate.



Cancer (June 22 - July 21)

Something you have been looking for will turn up, where you least expected to find it. You should try to avoid acting out of spite or jealousy. Seek to look at things from other people's point of view too. Be fair.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Something you had rather been dreading will turn out to be not nearly as bad as you had feared. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 24. You should not be in too great a hurry. If you have made a promise be sure to keep it.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will have a good idea but be careful, someone could well steal it from you. You should take a little more exercise, but avoid exhausting yourself. Try to keep out of the way of arguments. Be sincere.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Get what has to be done as quickly as possible and then rest. There is nothing to be gained by starting from the truth. Make sure you take good care of your appearance. Be polite.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will have to make some economies to do so. Do try to avoid treading on other people's toes. Suspicious judgments or jumped-to conclusions are to be avoided. Be considerate.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Average performance still weak

Market indices surge

KUWAIT, July 29, (KUNA): The Alshali index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, an average of 38.41 points with an increase of 0.55 point—1.45 per cent—over last week's average, according to Alshali weekly stock market report today.

The Alshali index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 68.08 with an increase of 0.87 point—0.99 per cent—for the same period, the report pointed out.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 11.3 million shares at a daily average of 2.26 million shares with a sharp increase of 223 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 0.70 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 1.64 million shares at a daily average of 0.328 million shares with a sharp increase of 1115 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.027 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD6.00 million at a daily average of KD1.20 million, a sharp increase of 161 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.46 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.040 million at a daily average of less than KD0.008 million, a sharp increase of 700 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.001 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 84 per cent of total trading against 93 per cent last week.

The National Bank of Kuwait led at 39 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 22 per cent in which National Investment Company had the lead at 76 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Projects 18 per cent followed by International Financial Advisors at 8 per cent.

Third came the real estate sector at 5 per cent of total trading of which Kuwait Real Estate Company was the only traded company.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Umm Al Quain Cement Company led at 73 per cent followed by Arabian Investment Company at 15 per cent and Bahrain and Middle East Bank at 10 per cent.

The market performance showed signs of slight increase in activity compared to the past week, which was reflected on some indices in both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti markets.

However, the average performance of the market is still weak and the slight increase in activity is due to the previous extended period of weakness.

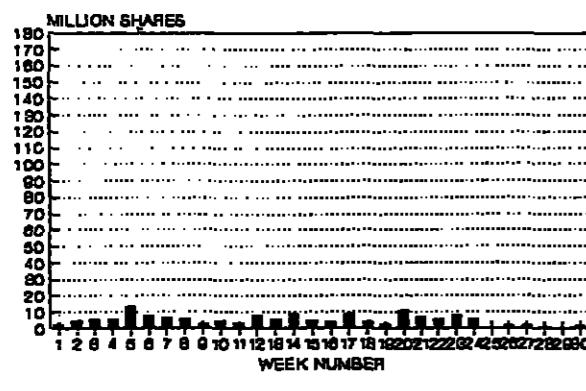
Market dealers are still concentrating on trading in shares of the banking sector in order to avoid high risks, however the concentration this week is less than last week's.

The promised changes, which were not implemented, together with the mid-summer period which is usually sluggish, led to the weak market trading. The only possible changes in market performance for this year, will be seasonal with few intervals of high activity, the report said.

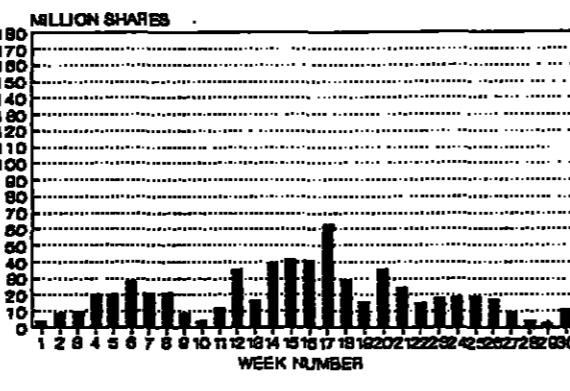
Kuwait shareholding companies Index

	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	26/07/89	19/07/89	points
Banking Sector			
The National Bank	114.64	111.20	3.44
The Gulf Bank	31.48	31.48	—
The Commercial Bank	23.27	23.27	—
Al Ahli Bank	30.28	29.77	0.50
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	30.50	30.50	—
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	28.29	28.29	—
Burgan Bank	27.06	26.53	0.52
—Base period 31/12/1983.			
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.			

NON-KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN.1 - JUL.26, 1989



KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN.1 - JUL.26, 1989



Interest rates falling

Economy may be touching down

NEW YORK, July 29, (AP): After a long time circling the runway on dwindling power, the once high-flying economy finally may be touching down.

Stock market investors have braced for a possibly difficult landing by favouring companies that can turn a profit regardless of economic conditions and dumping ones apt to be bumped around during impact.

The economy probably started on its final approach to the runway during the second quarter when growth eased considerably to a 1.7 per cent annual pace.

Many analysts regarded the report issued this past week on the gross national product — the broadest gauge of economic activity — as a signal that the economy has sufficient power for the sought-after "soft landing," a period of slow but sustained growth with falling inflation and interest rates.

This analysis helped various stock market measures scale to record heights during the week. On Thursday, the Standard and Poor's 500 stock index advanced to 341.99 and the New York Stock Exchange composite index advanced to 190.22, both all-time highs.

For all of the week, the market made some impressive progress.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials finished the week at 2,635.24, just 0.19 point below the post-crash high reached 1 Thursday, up 27.88 points for the week and just about 87 points shy of its all time high of 2,722.42 set in August 1987.

The NYSE composite index rose 3.23 to 190.38; the NASDAQ Composite index for the over-the-counter market added 3.53 to 452.82; and the American Stock Exchange market value index was up 3.23 at 374.51.

Volume averaged 179.62 million shares a day, up slightly from 175.90 million a day the previous week.

One force driving the market onward was evidence that the Federal Reserve was sluffing the credit cushion to make the economy's landing more comfortable. The Central Bank took steps this past week to loosen short-term interest rates.

Declining interest rates bode well for the stock and bond markets, says Greg A. Smith of Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. Hundreds of billions of dollars now invested in money market funds in the United States could go elsewhere if rates continue to fall.

"Any further drops in short-term financial assets such as stocks and bonds," he wrote in a weekly market strategy report.

A look at recent Wall Street trends indicates investors have been discriminating in their selections. Stocks of companies with earnings swings during business cycles, such as automakers, have performed weakly for some time while more recession-proof companies, such as foodmakers and consumer product companies, have fared better.

"The market is really penalising those companies that will be bothered by a recession," says John D Connolly.

UK dock strike weakens

LONDON, July 29, (Reuters): Britain's dock strike weakened today when dockers at the port of Southampton voted to return to work despite appeals by union leaders.

The Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) said the 450 Southampton dockers voted overwhelmingly to return to work at the southern English port on Monday after 150 were told they would be sacked if they stayed out.

Employers said more than half of the 60 ports affected by the stoppage called by the TGWU 18 days ago were no longer on strike.

Union leaders voted on Friday to continue the strike despite employers' claims that support was crumbling.

The TGWU launched the strike in protest against the government's abolition this month of a jobs-for-life guarantee covering 9,400 registered dockers.

Employers estimate almost 3,000 men have now abandoned the strike.

While OPEC has been putting more oil into the market, world demand has fallen below expectation.

Meanwhile, crude oil prices dropped below the important \$18 a barrel psychological support level for the first time in five months on the New York Mercantile Exchange yesterday as traders shifted their money to bargain-basement gasoline.

The standard-setting West Texas Intermediate crude ended

Call to stick to quotas

Indonesia sees possible emergency OPEC meeting

JAKARTA, July 29, (Agencies): The oil exporters' group OPEC, some of whose members are ignoring output agreements, may have to hold an emergency meeting if prices drop too far, member-state Indonesia said today.

"I don't think prices will reach the \$15 level. But before it reaches that level OPEC might have to hold an emergency meeting," Mines and Energy Minister Gintan Kartasasmita told reporters.

Prices have fallen a dollar in the past week and oil analysts in New York said if they fall below \$17, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries might turn its September monitoring committee session into a full emergency meeting.

Western industry executives now put total OPEC output this month at just above 21 million barrels per day compared to agreed quotas totalling 19.5 million.

Traders were taking profits on previous short contracts bought in the belief gasoline prices would decline, said Beutel.

In analogous spread buying of gasoline vs. heating oil, traders drove down the price of home heating oil 1.03 cents, ending the day at 48.23 cents a gallon on the Merc, on the week, the "heat" fell 3.06.

George Konikowski of Smith Barney Upman Harris and Co. said there was "a lot of unwinding of (previously bought) gas-crude spreads — buying the gas and selling the crude."

The United Arab Emirates' Dubai light — the key OPEC crude from the Middle East — was quoted at \$14.65 a barrel, up 5 cents on the day, but down 58 cents on the week.

On the European spot market, Britain's widely traded North Sea Brent crude was quoted at \$17.05 a barrel, a gain of 35 cents on the day, but a loss of 85 cents on the week.

Meanwhile, crude oil prices dropped below the important \$18 a barrel psychological support level for the first time in five months on the New York Mercantile Exchange yesterday as traders shifted their money to bargain-basement gasoline.

The standard-setting West Texas Intermediate crude ended

Mubarak to launch contacts

Plans to resolve debt problems

CAIRO, July 29, (KUNA): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, will launch intensive diplomatic contacts at the non-aligned summit in Belgrade in September to resolve the African countries' foreign debt problems.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali told daily Al Ahram that Mubarak will also endeavour to settle a number of inter-African disputes.

Mubarak will further attempt to promote the quadruplet initiative, launched by his country along with Senegal, Venezuela and India, to arrange for a North-South summit to discuss a solution to the Third World's debt problems, Ghali added.

He concluded that Mubarak will also work to draft a new strategy to confront racial discrimination and to supervise independence process of Namibia.

Jobless rate set to fall further

PARIS, July 29, (KUNA): Unemployment in the 24-member Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is expected to decline further in 1989 to 27.5 million persons, the lowest level since 1981 and representing seven per cent of the OECD's workforce, the organisation said in its 1989 unemployment outlook.

In 1988, the number of unemployed people in the OECD reached 28.0 million representing 7.3 per cent of the organisation's labour force.

After the decline in 1989, unemployment in the OECD area is projected to rise slightly in 1990 to 27.5 per cent of the work force or 28.5 million jobless persons.

In Japan, the number of people out of work is expected to remain unchanged in 1989 and 1990 at 1.5 million or 2.25 per cent of the country's workforce, in the United States it is forecast to rise to seven million by 1990, representing five and a half percent of the labour force.

In France, unemployment is expected to stabilise around two and a half million persons or 10.5 per cent of the workforce in the next eighteen months.

Dollar likely to remain weak

TOKYO, July 29, (KUNA): The dollar is expected to remain weak next week at the Tokyo currency exchange market as prelude to the expected announcement of American unemployment rate for July and the deceleration of the American economy, market sources said here today.

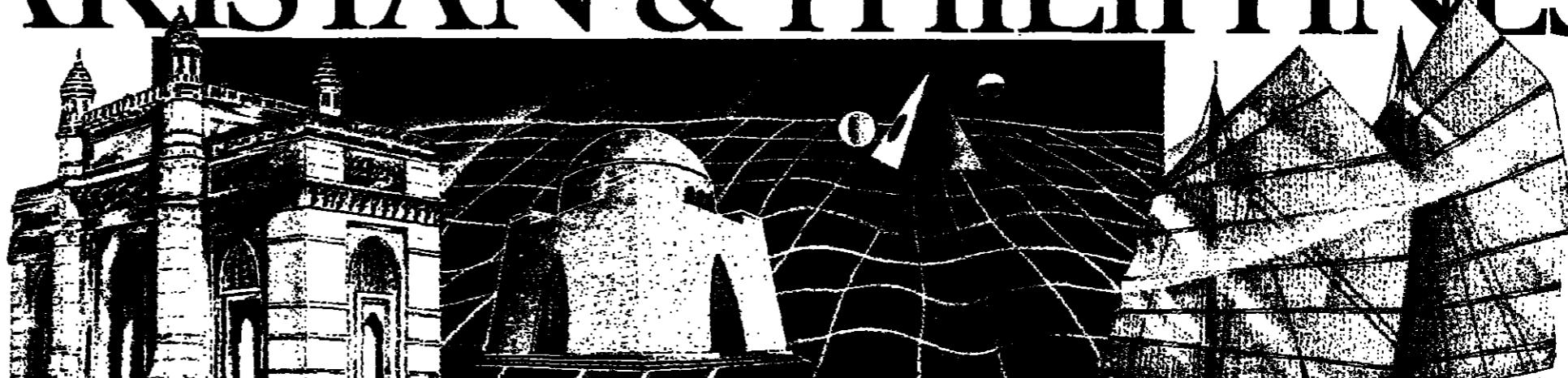
The same sources also expected that the dollar's rate will range between 137 yen to 142 yen during next week and that is in comparison to its rate of 138.97 yen and the 143.45 yen of last week.

The dollar has soared to 143.45 yen last week following Japanese Premier Sosuke Uno's resignation announcement when his ruling Liberal Democratic Party lost in the parliament's Upper House elections.

Dealers said that the American unemployment rate could be slightly more than 5.3 per cent.

In late New York trading, the dollar was quoted at 1.8810 against the West German mark, up from Thursday's 1.8760. Against the yen, the dollar rose to 139.50, compared with Thursday's close of 138.90.

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Stock prices sharply higher

Federal Reserve eases credit

NEW YORK, July 29, (UPI): As the economy slowed, the Federal Reserve eased credit sending stock prices sharply higher in a week that saw major merger activity and lower earnings reported by large auto and oil companies.

Nissan workers brought smiles to auto management by voting overwhelmingly against joining the United Automobile Workers, and Chrysler announced a \$1 billion cost-reduction programme to contend with what promises to be a tight auto market in the early 1990's.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday the economy expanded at a modest 1.7 per cent annual rate during the second quarter, continuing the slowdown in growth as inflation hit its highest level since 1982.

The expansion of the gross national product — the total output of American goods and services — was the slowest pace since the 0.8 per cent increase in the third quarter of 1986, the department said.

Inflation, as measured by the department's price deflator for GNP, ran at a 4.9 per cent annual rate in the second quarter — the highest quarterly rate since 5.8 per

cent in the third quarter of 1982. The department largely blamed oil field accidents and a production pact agreed to by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries that forced oil prices up.

But inflation was not the main concern of the Federal Reserve Board, which loosened its grip Wednesday on credit because of worries over the slowing economy slipping into a recession.

The Fed took no action to stop a drop in a key federal funds interest rate, which should allow banks to further drop their prime lending rate for large customers.

Republic Bank of Philadelphia and NCNB Corp. of Charlotte, North Carolina, then lowered their rates by a half percentage point to 10.5 per cent, following an earlier move by Chase Manhattan.

The lower interest rates helped to send stock prices sharply higher in some of the heaviest trading sessions in a month.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index and Standard and Poor's 500 index ended the week at all-time closing highs of 190.38 and 342.15, respectively. The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 2635.24, less than 100 points of its all-

time high of 2722.42, set Aug 25, 1987.

On Tuesday, the Commerce Department reported orders for durable goods gained a modest 0.3 per cent in June. Excluding the defence sector, the orders dropped 0.3 per cent compared with May's 3.9 per cent decline.

President Bush provided relief to the hard-pressed steel industry by extending foreign steel-import quotas for 2-1/2 years, but indicated he would seek to end all such practices on the world steel market in the future.

Although US steelmakers were disappointed that the quotas weren't extended the five years they proposed, US officials said the extension was designed to allow US steelmakers more time to modernise their plants and time for a transition to more open markets.

In Detroit, General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. posted lower second-quarter earnings Thursday, attributing the decline to lower industry volumes and the higher costs of buyer incentives to spur the market.

Industry leader GM reported earnings of \$1.45 billion, down 3.5 per cent from

\$1.5 billion in the year-ago quarter.

Ford, the nation's second largest carmaker but the most profitable one in the world last year, reported world-wide profits of \$1.4 billion. But Ford's latest performance marked a 15.7 per cent decline from its all-time profit peak of \$1.66 billion posted in the year-ago period.

Belt tightening also was evident at the nation's No.3 automaker Thursday when Chrysler Corp. outlined a \$1 billion cost-reduction programme involving early retirement or buyouts by 1990 of at least 2,300 salaried workers, or more than 8 per cent of its total white-collar work force.

Chrysler Motors chairman Bennett E. Bidwell said the effort aimed at raising profit levels and competitiveness because of lower sales forecast for the early 1990s.

The outlook for increased competition was underscored when Nissan workers voted overwhelmingly against joining the United Auto Workers in the nation's first union election at a Japanese auto plant.

Business experts said the UAW loss is a victory for the Japanese "team-oriented" style of management.

ASCA's board reviews final plan

THE Examination Supervisory Board of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) concluded its deliberations in Riyadh on July 28, 1989 where over an extended session reviewed the final plan and arrangements for conducting Level One of the qualifying exams for the title "Arab Certified Accountant" which will be held on November 28, 1989.

The Chairman of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) Talal Abu-Ghazaleh stated that in view of the tremendous appeal across the whole of the Arab nation, as evidenced by the considerable number of applications so far received, the Examination Supervisory Board has decided to extend the closing date for receipt of applications to August 31st, 1989.

Applications received after this date will be given priority in registration for the subsequent session. Abu-Ghazaleh added that the board has appointed three examination controllers to oversee the conduct of the examinations. Dr Khalil Kundi, Fouad Alaeed and Antoine Mattar.

Chairman Abu-Ghazaleh said that about 350 applications have so far been received from accounting students in several Arab countries.

To cope with the increasing number of applications, the Examination Supervisory Board has decided to increase the examinations centres to eight where they come under the direct supervision of eight controllers as follows: Akrar Al Kadi (Kuwait), Jaafar Al Qireem (Abu Dhabi), Salih Jadallah (Riyadh), Munir Al Borno (Al Khobar), Abdul Majed Mohandas (Jedda), Safaa Eddin Sadek (Muscat), Tawfiq Ayoub (Amman) and Rida Faraj (Bahrain).

The board has adopted and will apply the same rules, regulations and the conduct at the examination halls recognized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales which will accordingly be distributed to students, investigators and clerks in-charge, and has determined that the examination will be held over the period November 28 through November 30, 1989.

The results will be published on 15 Feb 1990.

A preparatory session for those sitting for the examination will be held during the week preceding the commencement of the exams.

Texaco's earnings decline

NEW YORK, July 29, (OPECNA): Texaco incorporated reported here yesterday that its second-quarter earnings declined 21.1 per cent to \$366 million, or \$1.36 a share, from \$464 million (\$1.91 a share) a year earlier.

The company disclosed that last year's results included a one-time gain of \$225 million from the sale of its West German affiliate, Deutsche Texaco.

Income from extraordinary items was up \$1.27 million, an increase of 53.1 per cent.

Other oil companies to announce results yesterday were Occidental Petroleum, which reported a 3.9 per cent rise in second-quarter earnings, and Shell Oil, which registered a 60.6 per cent net increase.

Manila may get debt relief

Philippines needs \$1.7b in new money

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): Bankers under pressure to ease Third World debt are likely to turn to the Philippines in the next month rather than attack the imposing problems of Brazil and Argentina, financial sources say.

An agreement between bankers and Mexico, announced July 23, was expected to be followed by others under a plan proposed by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady.

The international financial sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said the Philippines with its debt of \$30 billion was likely to make the next agreement even though Brazil and Argentina owe a lot

more — 120 billion and 60 billion.

The sources said the two Latin American countries will have to wait. The new Argentine government of President Carlos Menem still settling in Brazil will have an election in November.

How much can be done for the Philippines is still uncertain, as it is for Mexico despite the new agreement.

Mexico may get its annual payments to banks reduced by as much as \$3 billion a year. It could use the money for buying goods from abroad that will increase jobs and production with the hope of eventually stemming the long decline in its people's

income.

One calculation is that the Philippines needs \$1.7 billion in new money over the next two years.

"Now the arrangement has been agreed for Mexico, there'll be a question of reducing debt and interest for the Philippines, too," said a banker, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He added that much will depend on the pressure US President George Bush's administration uses against banks on the Philippines' behalf.

Brady and his predecessor at treasury, Secretary of State James Baker, made repeated public statements that the banks

should do more for Mexico. There were threats that Congress would compel banks to act.

For the Philippines, one expert predicted that an accord could be reached by the end of August between its government and a committee of 12 banks led by Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. He also spoke on condition that his name not be used. A meeting is due in New York early in the month.

Haywood Fleisig, in charge of Philippine affairs at the World Bank, pointed out that commercial bankers could do much less for the Philippines than for Mexico.

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De Guzman tried to blackmail Cory

Operation Big Bird

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Cory asked to make higher tuition illegal

MILITANT students have asked President Aquino to declare illegal the higher tuition collected by schools to ease unrest in some campuses.

In a letter to Ms Aquino, the National Union of Students in the Philippines (NUSP) said they have documents proving that several private schools had increased their fees way above the tuition ceilings set by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS).

It said several colleges and universities violated the School Subsidy Law by collecting higher tuition without consulting students, parents, teachers and alumni.

A delegation led by NUSP chairman Mike Defensor yesterday handed the two-page letter to Speaker Ramon V. Mitra who promised to deliver it to the President along with other documents.

Mitra told the students he would try to arrange a dialogue between Aquino and student leaders.

He also said Congress would investigate

alleged violations by schools of the subsidy law and DECS guidelines on tuition increases after studying the documents.

In the letter, the students said government's inaction on the tuition issue constituted "a grave injustice to our parents and more than half a million students dislocated (from) schools because of the increases."

They also blamed authorities for the recent violent clashes that marred student demonstrations against tuition hikes, saying "our assemblies were peaceful and not confrontational."

During a press conference militant student groups led by the NUSP and the League of Filipino Students (LFS) said they would defy the government guidelines on student demonstrations by holding protest actions against the tuition increases.

"There is a clear connivance between the government and the school owners," Defensor said, adding that the guidelines



Aquino virtually allowed the "militarization" of campuses.

Mitra, who was also told about the students' objections to the guidelines, said he would ask Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos and Gen. Renato de Villa, Armed Forces chief, to review the authority given to policemen and soldiers to disperse student rallies.

The guidelines, which were drawn up in a meeting Monday among representatives of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU), the military and some government offices, also ban the setting up of barricades on campuses.

PACU suspended classes in 26 member-schools in Metro Manila last week to press government into acting against campus unrest.

It lifted the suspension after the guidelines were approved.

Shortly after the press conference called by the student groups, some 150 members of the LFS held a lightning rally in front of the PACU office in Espana to protest the guidelines.

Why low grade rice!

By C.D. Balana

SENATE President Pro Tempore Teofilo Guingona has asked Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez and the National Food Authority to explain why the government had to import low grade rice, most of it "broken" and naphthalene-contaminated, to the detriment of the consumers.

Guingona, chairman of the Senate blue ribbon committee, told a press conference that both Dominguez and the NFA failed to give the terms and conditions involved in the rice import when they recommended to the Cabinet the purchase of 250,000 metric tons of rice this year despite the fact there was no shortage of rice.

Guingona said that before the import of rice was agreed upon, the government, through the NFA, exported 23,000 metric tons of rice to Indonesia as payment for a loan it previously secured.

Since the prevailing value of payment in kind was higher than the amount due, the government suffered a loss of P1.2 million as a result of the transaction, Guingona said.

House clips funds transfer power

By Beth A. Pango

THE committee on appropriations decided to clip power of the Department of Budget and Management to transfer funds from one purpose to another.

The 46-member committee decided on this course of action after they established that the DBM had been drawing from lump sum appropriations and contingency funds to create thousands of new positions and to finance projects of local government.

The committee also found out that DBM violated the budget act of 1989 by increasing the P10 million authorised allocation for the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau to P35 million.

With most of its members present, the committee grilled Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague for about six hours on his department's creation of thousands of unfunded positions in 28 government agencies had not been filled up yet.

He said he had already issued memoranda to agencies requesting the creation of new positions to certify that they have savings for the payment of salaries of new personnel they would hire.

Also during the hearing, the opposition bloc tried to bring up

use of funds, especially contingency funds," said Rep. Rolando Andaya, appropriations committee chairman. He said the limitations would be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act of 1990.

The committee, however, said there was nothing illegal in the DBM's creation of 26,503 positions, since these were authorised by executive orders allowing the reorganisation of various government offices.

However, Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague said the Office of the President had ordered DBM to release the additional P25 million so that EIB could activate its field operations.

Congress had slashed EIB's budget to P10 million and abolished its field operations offices, saying it was merely duplicating the job of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Customs.

"Why do you superimpose your wisdom over the legislative body? This is the problem with some people in the cabinet who superimpose their wisdom," Andaya told Carague.

The committee also asked Carague to submit records of budgetary releases to local governments as well as account for the use of contingency funds and government savings.

Rep. Renato Dragun (LDP, Cavite) said the DBM should report to the committee how savings were used since 1986. Savings are supposed to revert to the general fund before they can be used.



Carague

their charge that 30 government agencies had spent a total of P17 billion over their authorised budgets in 1988.

Minority Floor leader Rodolfo Albano (KBL, Isabela) said there were "discrepancies" in the budget expenditures of the government.

But the committee said the listed items were "not properly interpreted."

"Sa reorganisation talaga nagkakulo," said Andaya, who served as a budget under-secretary like Carague after the EDSA revolt.

DBM sources earlier said the

effectivity of the executive orders had lapsed in September 1988, and could not be used to justify the creation of new positions this year.

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Land reforms on schedule

DESPITE recent scandals involving overvaluation of private lands offered for sale to the government, the multi-billion-dollar Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program is moving on target, according to the department of agrarian reform.

Measuring the implementing agency's accomplishment in CARP for the month of June alone, the department posted a weighted performance rating of 81.66 per cent, considering that last month was a disturbing period for DAR due to the number of scandals unearthed.

Several sectors raised apprehension earlier that implementation of what the Aquino administration considered its landmark or centerpiece programme would slow down dramatically as a result of the much-publicised irregularities.

Based on the official report of the DAR, it even surpassed its target in the distribution of emancipation patents, although distribution of certificates of land ownership awards and homestead patents suffered, significantly below-target accomplishments.

Statistics show that some 44,288 hectares of land were distributed in different parts of the country to some 30,000 farmer-beneficiaries. The target set at the start of the year was only 39,200 hectares to a lesser number of beneficiaries.

Critics may be proved right about projection of delays in negotiations for the purchase of lands offered voluntarily for sale to the government, or the voluntary offer of sale (VOS) scheme.

But this is mainly due to the loopholes in the existing provisions and guidelines covering the system, particularly pertaining to the issue of just compensation.

The administration has been looking into measures for legislation that would rescue the image of CARP from whatever negative or even destructive impressions the land purchase scandals might have created.

But it would be wrong to presume the CARP would no longer move at a faster pace than before the scandals wrecked the noble undertaking. The remaining aspects of the programme continue moving toward and unstoppable at that.

Distribution of lands alone will not do any good if not supported with technical know-how to farmer beneficiaries.

The DAR's overall performance with regard to the CARP implementation has helped in drumming up support for the Philippine Assistance Programme in Tokyo recently.



The island is a perfect place for crocodiles but it's the most dangerous place for humans to live in, Mitra said.

Three months ago, local leaders sought the help of the Department of Local Government in capturing the crocodiles. They said their fishing industry was on the verge of death as fishermen have refused to venture into the waters for fear of their lives.

Twelve persons had reportedly been eaten alive by crocodiles, the most notorious of which was reported to be a 30-foot one.



NBI take over investigations

TWO senators urged the Senate ethics committee to allow the National Bureau of Investigation to take over the investigation of the rumoured indiscretions of some of their colleagues.

Senators Sotero H. Laurel and Juan Ponce Enrile also suggested that the committee subpoena the registry books of motels and hotels where so-called "Senate Lotharios" reportedly spend nights with their mistresses or—in some cases male lovers.

Both Laurel and Enrile sit at the ethics committee which conducted an "informal" inquiry into the rumors. Sen. Rene Saguisag, committee majority floor leader and chairman of the powerful rules committee.

Mercado said his resignation was not an admission of his frustration over his failure to check the rumours which, he said, had taken a toll on his family, particularly his cancer-stricken wife Dorothy, impaired his effectiveness, and tarnished the Senate's image.

The proposal for a new investigation were made by former Chief Justice Felix Makasig, hearing before Laurel, and a representative of Enrile during a committee hearing when Saguisag formally announced an end to the "informal" inquiry into the rumours.

The rumors about the "sexploits" of some senators gained national attention when newspaper columnists and radio muckrakers started harping on them. According to the rumors, several senators had mistresses or had affairs with newsheads, bold starlets, actresses and, in some cases, men.

Mercado, a former radio journalist and popular television host, resigned from his Senate post last Friday over rumours he impregnated a senator's pretty daughter.

Let crocodiles be!

SURIGAO CITY: Scared of being eaten alive by the reptiles, Surigao islanders first wanted the crocodiles in their swamps captured.

Now they want them kept there so the island could benefit from the tourism potentials of having a crocodile sanctuary.

During the last three months, eight crocodiles on the island were captured by a team from the Philippines Japan Crocodile Research Institute. They were flown to Palawan where Speaker Ramon V. Mitra has envisioned setting up a sanctuary.

Local officials here, however, are protesting the transfer of the captured crocodiles to Palawan.

In a recent dialog with Mitra, city officials demanded that the crocodile sanctuary be set up instead on Surigao island for economic reasons.

"Why are they taking out our crocodiles?" asked Councilman Inocente Lopez. "We need those reptiles here to attract tourists to Surigao."

According to Lopez, Surigao has attracted international attention because of the crocodiles. "This is one big opportunity for the city government to boost its tourist industry," he said.

The Rotary Club of Metro Surigao recently passed a resolution asking the government to allow the crocodiles to be returned to Surigao island for tourism development purposes.

Mitra turned down the idea of moving the Palawan sanctuary to Surigao, but agreed to have a second crocodile sanctuary on Surigao island.

From the provinces

CEBU CITY: The Cebu provincial board, riding roughshod on a presidential executive order, has voted to ban the use of Tagalog in official communications and as medium of instruction in schools in the province.

In Executive Order No. 355, the President had directed government official nationwide to use "Filipino" in official communications and as medium of instruction in schools starting this year.

Board assistant majority floor leader Winston Garcia said that it was "premature" to use Filipino as medium of instruction and of official communications before the language could be "standardized" by Congress.

The board is standing on solid legal ground in objecting to the deceptive use of Tagalog as the national language, Garcia said.

School authorities said they would refer the board resolution to higher education officials. PNA

and other left-leaning groups.

Manuel said that the communist recruitment and expansion programme is hampered by the deployment of the Army's special operations teams and the introduction of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in rebel-influenced barangays.

He added that the communists could not pursue their expansion plans because of lack of mass base support and because of demoralization within the rank and file.

He said NPA regulars are dwindling due to death in encounters and unabated defections.

He also said the members of communist guerrilla units were forced to disperse in small groups for lack of support and co-operation. (Efren Molina)

MANILA: Two passengers of a Bacoor-bound jeepney died while 14 others were seriously injured when the jeepney they were riding in lost its break and smashed into a Light Railway Transit (LRT) post in front of the Sta. Isabel College on Tal Ave shortly before noon.

Major Arturo Fernandez, chief of the West Traffic Division (WTD) of the Western Police District, identified one of the fatalities as Remigio Yamat, 26. The other one was unidentified. The two died at the emergency room of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

In critical condition were Lagrimas Perez, 43; Gina Paschal, 22; Arnel Cardinez, 21; Pablo Tubay, 57, and his brother and driver of the passenger jeep Adriano, 50.

Encarnacion Perez, 59; and her daughter Avelina, 30, and Sarah, six-year-old grand daughter of Encarnacion; Sarah Ibanez, 25, and her sister-in-law Precy, 22; Rose Perez, 43; Tita de Guia, 20; Joseito Garado, 21; and Mila Perez, 43. The victims were all confined at the PGH, a police report said.

QUEZON CITY: Three container vans loaded with knocked-down truck and car parts, and air conditioning units with a total value of P30 million were seized by customs authorities at the South Harbour.

The unanimous decision, written by Justice Florentino P. Feliciano in effect, paved the way for sugar planters to recover some P2.7 billion in alleged excess levies reportedly deducted from their sugar exports by Philsucor.

The alleged excess levies were reportedly used by Philsucor in the settlement of its obligations with foreign financial institutions.

SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA: Pampanga District Engineer Rafael S. Ponciano announced that infrastructure projects costing P72.3 million will be completed by the end of October, this year.

Ponciano made the announcement after Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) field engineers and government-accredited contractors reported that almost 50 per cent of the 408 public works projects being implemented this year in the different towns of the province are about to be completed.

NORTHERN LUZON: Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos identified the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and three towns in La Union as areas that suffered heavy damage and sought the allotment of rehabilitation funds.

Goring, with centre winds at 202 kilometres per hour, lashed Northern and Central Luzon over the weekend causing landslides and flashfloods.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development reported last week the death toll has risen to 32. It added that 30 have been reported injured and 28 others, missing.

Social Welfare Secretary Mita Pardo de Tavera said there were 15 deaths reported in Ilocos, 15 in the Cordilleras and two in Cagayan.

All the missing persons were reported in the Cordilleras, she added.

Tavera said 15 of the injured were from the Cordilleras, nine from Ilocos, and six from Cagayan.

She said the number of affected families have also risen to 35,596 from a total of 189,672 persons from Ilocos, Cagayan, Cordilleras, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Western Visayas.

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PASSPORT No. W 037667 in the name of Sodinapalli Ramakrishna Reddy, Indian. Finder please tele. 4811440, 4896950. (AT2-48569-2)

SONY 27" TV, video camera, AC, JVC 5 system video, MSX computer, Marantz HiFi, carpet, curtains, IKEA furniture and Gulf antenna. Tele. Mr Anjum. 4738477. (AT6-48540-2)

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TOYOTA Corona 1982, AC, manual steering gear, bench seat, cream colour, with new tyres, in excellent condition, KD 650 ono. cash. Tele. Dr Naidu. 4842578 after 2 pm. (AT1-48545-3)

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A section of the crowd watching the basketball game.



The Al Rashed Freight women's volleyball team.



Action shot of the EEI-Woodgroup game. (Photos by Haitham Mousa)

By Gil Bangalan

CELSO TUADLES, Pizza Italia All Star MVP awardee, scored 46 points and led Woodgroup to a decisive win over EEI-Kamish Al Aryam on Friday in the first game of the men's basketball final round.

The Woodgroup quintet dogged the heels of the EEI-Kamish from the start of the game, succeeding in keeping the EEI-Kamish lead to three points only through the game, until the last two minutes when they spurted with 3 consecutive baskets that sealed the fate of the former.

Woodgroup's win gives them an advantageous position in the 6-teams final round. Supporting Celso Tuadles in his heroics were Magallanes, Dyongeo, Branzuela, J. Tuadles, and Almario. Tuadles J. and Almario scored 10 pts each, Marcelo 9 pts, while Magallanes and Branzuela had 8 pts and 4 pts respectively.

On the EEI-Kamish side, Barcelona topscored with 41 pts, Dingson made 25 pts, before fouling in the last 3 minutes of the game; and Repollo contributed 10 pts. Final score was 99-89.

In the other games, Magnolia Ice Cream routed SAS Hotel, 100-69. SAS Hotel's demise came early in the games when their scoring machine Arganoza found himself with 4 fouls already at the start of the second half. He fouled out eventually after contributing only 14 pts, way below his 42 pts average per game.

Top scorers for the Magnolia Ice Creamers were Zalavarria with 32 pts, Calayay 21 pts, Vargas 13 pts, Babiera and San Buenaventura scored 10 pts each. For the SAS Hotel, Vergara and Dalde scored 14 pts each while San-

Woodgroup surprise EEI-Kamish

Durrani Exchange defeat FCC Shell



The Woodgroup squad who stunned EEI-Kamish.



A Woodgroup player relaxes.



One of the players quenches his thirst.

dovo made 10 pts.

Regency Palace outplayed Dollarco Exchange, 67-55, behind Bolito's heads-up play. Bolito sank 21 pts, with Ecija and Riodique contributing 12 pts each. For Dollarco, Laborde and Romero provided the firepower, scoring 16 and 14 pts, respectively. Macatangay apparently suffered from an icy hand as he managed to sink in only 4 pts.

The six teams will be playing a single round robin series in this final round to determine the champion and final ranking of the teams. The second round of games is scheduled on

Friday, 04 August 1989. Due to circumstances beyond the committee's control, there will be no games during the holidays, i.e. August 2 & 3, instead all games henceforth shall be scheduled every Friday.

In the ladies volleyball championship round, Durrani Exchange found themselves facing a more aggressive FCC Shell. Durrani lost the first set, 7-15, but recovered in the next in a 15-2 win. They stumbled in the third set, 9-15, but the Durrani spikers would not bow to FCC Shell as they clobbered the latter in the final two sets, 15-1 and 15-2. Durrani's win places them in an advantage over the FCC Shell.

Competing for the third position, Al Rashed rallied from a 2-set disadvantage, winning the next three sets to turn the tables on archrival Hatid Ligaya. Final score was 7-15, 10-15, 15-6, 15-8 and 15-8.

Schedule of games

Friday, 04 August 1989:
8:00 Dollarco Exchange vs SAS Hotel; 9:30 Regency Palace vs EEI-Kamish; 11:00 Magnolia Ice Cream vs Woodgroup Engineering; 12:30 VL Al Rashed vs Hatid Ligaya; 2:00 VL Durrani Exchange vs FCC Shell; 3:30 Regency Palace vs Woodgroup Engineering; 5:00 Dollarco Exchange vs Magnolia Ice Cream.



The Hatid-Ligaya squad who lost to Al Rashed.

Trinidad triumphs

BAYANI TRINIDAD, a 4th dan black belt and a sikaran master won the black belt Kata Championship trophy with an excellent performance of Kata number 7 on Friday, at the Keifan Gym.

Bayani's outstanding delivery and perfect technique enabled him to edge his close rival to the delight of the spectators.

Emmanuel Ordonia, a 1st dan black belt showed and demonstrated the Hian Go Dan to capture the first runner-up position with perfection in stance and form.

Black belt Crispin Oficial romped away with the second runner-up prize with a very good demonstration of Passaiso.

All the winners in the green, brown and black belts Kata tournament will get an award. Trophies and medals will also be awarded to the champions and runners-up respectively. The prize distribution will be held on Friday, August 4 at 1:00 pm and all Sikaran-Karate members should come in Kimono uniforms.

The judges for the highest rank in the Kata competition were Kapilku President Manny Inserto and Jun Mercado, a sikaran-karate enthusiast.

The sikaran-karate Kata tournament is being sponsored by Hatid Ligaya — Abugosh International (Philippines door to door service).



Kapilku and Palaro officials (Sikaran-karate). Left to right (sitting): June Pine and Cris Oficial. Standing: Jun Mercado, Noel Ordonia, Bayani Trinidad, Freddie Fernando — VP sports and recreation — and Palaro chairman and Kapilku president Manny Inserto.



EEI-Kamish players on the bench during a break.



Some of the officials of the volleyball tourney.



The Hatid-Ligaya ladies receive instructions from their coach.



Kapilku and Palaro officials with trophies to be presented on Friday.



Some of the Filipinos have their lunch at the Keifan gym.

All-Star game could have been better with participation of all players

By Butch J. Cordero

THE Pizza Italia All-Stars basketball tournament, played last week, is the most spicy if not the nicey serving one could offer to the local basketball fanatics in the hot month of July.

Same tyros and neophytes and fun-loving basketeers, the distinct Filipino flavour and a native aroma arise.

Here, All-Star Filipino players are the main ingredients. Home made products like Tuadles, Lugo, Barcelona and Dingson are adequately served as toppings to equally delectable desserts like Babiera, Reyes, Vargas and Zalavarria.

Too bad, the most delectable and tasty Perez, Lindimas, De la Cruz and Castro were not around.

Local fanatics could have feast more, leaving Keifan stadium full and satisfied.

After all the brouhaha, the walkouts and all that jazz, even pessimists have all the reason to believe that the Pizza Italia All-Stars had all the makings of a blockbuster. And it was!

And there were no quarters spared! Definitely the veterans unleashed their might not giving the rookies and even the sophomores any mercy as their very existence was at stake.

Now in terms of which team got the most number of superstar players, Green leads the pack.

Italia's manager, the Kapilku, and tournament officials who moved heaven and earth to make both teams well knit, cohesive fighting machines.

The Pizza All-Stars also was a grand time for our rookies to really display their wares against the veterans in the League.

Also, Green scored a jackpot with Barcelona and Dingson. Both had consistently wowed the crowd with their seemingly aerial antics that rivaled those of Paul Alvarez.

Lugo, on the other hand, played a dual role for the Greens, that of a hardcourt general and a spiritual leader.

Tuadles, as a result of his unlimited exposure in the game, led the Most Valuable Player race. The Green coach loved to put him into the game from the opening whistle up to the last buzzer of the game.

Also, Green scored a jackpot with Barcelona and Dingson. Both had consistently wowed the crowd with their seemingly aerial antics that rivaled those of Paul Alvarez.

Lugo, on the other hand, played a dual role for the Greens, that of a hardcourt general and a spiritual leader.

Experily backing the four were

Abanero and Juan. Abanero delivered the shot when needed most. He had the speed and the hustle and sniping abilities while Juno's quick release jumper was number one.

On the Red side, Reyes was calm and cool and had the quickest and the deadliest jumpshots among the players. His shooting accuracy could not be doubted.

Babiera was the Red's biggest catch. He is a hulking slowness and he can be voted as the court's minister of national defence.

The Reds had also Zalavarria, who has proved he can be a pain in the neck

for the Greens. Zalavarria has the height and the jumping ability to battle even the grizzled veterans in the League.

The Reds also paraded a booming bomb in Vargas, a lanky skywalker who expertly backed Zalavarria's high-flying game.

And not to be forgotten is Jose. One good thing about him is that he could shoot from the three point country.

As lastly there was Atienza. He is a medium range jumper and he showed a lot of promise.

The All-Star Games had proved one thing: we had some of the best Filipino

players around. They could have been the BEST if all the selected players were around to participate.

As an ordinary basketball fan, I got something more to say. The players have the responsibility not only to themselves but also all the local basketball audience.

A player has the responsibility to perfect his craft, and make the best of himself. And he has the responsibility to show up and be counted in times when his co-operation is needed most.

Furthermore, let me take this opportunity to thank Chuckie Barakat for sponsoring the game.

Keith forced to give up charity swim

LOS ANGELES, July 29. (UPI): A marathon swimmer who became the first person to butterfly stroke her way across the English Channel failed a similar attempt to swim the much-longer San Pedro Channel from Santa Catalina Island yesterday.

After 19 hours and 19 minutes in the water, Vicki Keith, 28, was pulled aboard her chase boat at 3:19 a.m., six miles (9.60 km) from her destination, Coast Guard Petty Officer

Robert Beals said.

Keith began swimming the 22-mile (35.40 km) distance from Santa Catalina Island's Emerald Bay to Cabrillo Beach on the mainland at 8 a.m. Thursday, said Bill Petrasich, a spokesman for the Canadian swimmer.

The Canadian woman two weeks ago became the first swimmer to cross the 42-mile (67.50 km) English channel by butterfly stroke.

The Catalina swim was to raise money for variety children's charities.

Keith gave up her effort after a long battle to get to calmer waters. "The current was reversing itself," on the swimmer, Petrasich said.

"She went a little forward and then she was pushed back again," Petrasich said.

Keith told reporters who met her boat in San Pedro that her legs cramped up.

Ngugi wins 5,000m

McKean upsets Ereng

LONDON, July 29. (Reuters): Kenyan John Ngugi, winner of a record four successive World Cross Country Championships, will not defend his title next year.

Shortly after winning the 5,000 metres at an athletic meeting between Kenya and Britain here yesterday, Ngugi said he would not compete in next year's championships in Aix-Le-Bains, France.

"I will run the 10,000 metres at the Commonwealth Games next year," Ngugi said.

"But I will not run in the World Cross Country Championships. I don't want to run the cross country again."

Ngugi said he now intended to concentrate on track events with a possible assault next year on the world 10,000 metres record.

The Olympic 5,000 champion has not been impressive on the track so far this year but yesterday he showed he will be a formidable proposition in the second half of the European season.

The 27-year-old Kenyan took the lead with eight laps to run and never looked like being headed as he strode to victory in 13 minutes 17.72 seconds, more than three seconds ahead of second-placed Briton Tim Hutchings.

Ngugi's teammate Yobes Andeki was even more impressive in the men's 3,000 metres, winning in 7:36.72, nearly 12 seconds ahead of Briton Adrian

Passey.

But there was a rare defeat for Olympic 800 metres gold medallist Paul Ereng, who finished behind Britain's European silver medalist Tom McKean.

Ereng led through the bell in a



John Ngugi

brisk 50.14 seconds and was five metres in front of McKean going into the back straight.

But McKean refused to give up, moving to Ereng's shoulder in the home straight and kicking with 40 metres remaining. His



Tom McKean

time of 1:43.88 was a personal best and the fourth fastest in the year this world.

"I won the race on strength rather than speed," McKean said. "It gives me great confidence for next week's European Cup."

Ereng, unbeaten over 800 since last year's Olympics before yesterday's race, was second in 1:44.25.

As expected, Britain were superior to the Kenyans in the sprints with their Olympic silver medalists Linford Christie and Colin Jackson winning the 100 metres and 110 hurdles respectively.

World record holder Steve Cram dropped out of the men's mile shortly after the bell when he aggravated the left calf muscle injury which has been troubling him all season.

The Briton said he would not now run in the European Cup, to be staged in Gateshead, England, for which he had been selected to run over 1,500 metres.

The race was won by Kenyan Joseph Chesire, who returned a 54-second last lap to finish in 3:54.80.

Cram told reporters his season was now effectively over.

"I think that's probably the last you'll see of me this year, unfortunately," he said. "I pulled the muscle which I was risking during the last two or three races."

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